FBIS DAILY REPORT

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DETAILS OF INAUGURATION CEREMONY, TIGHT SECURITY

PY081612 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1320 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (DYN) -- It has been learned that on inauguration day President-elect Raul Alfonsin will go from Congress to Government House in a 1956 Cadillac, which was also used by former Presidents Juan Peron and Arturo Illia, while the ministers-designate will use specially prepared units of the "A" line subway for the various trips they will have to make.

According to the program prepared for Saturday, President Alfonsin is to walk from the Panamericano Hotel to the Obelisk -- located some 100 meters away -- where the so-called "Democracy Lamp," which will be installed there either today or tomorrow, will be lit. After lighting the lamp, the future president will board the old convertible Cadillac to take him to Congress escorted by three squadrons of 100 mounted Grenadiers.

The ministers-designate will follow the same itinerary in specially conditioned units of the "A" line subway. Each entry gate of this subway line will be guarded and the public will not be allowed to enter.

It has also been disclosed that Alfonsin's route will be cordoned off to prevent the crowd from obstructing the official motorcade. A vast security operation will also be launched with a great number of federal policemen posted along the presidential route and at each entrance to all places at which ceremonies will occur.

After taking the oath of office before Congress, Alfonsin will go by car to Government House, where he will receive the attributes of power and swear in his ministers and secretaries of state. From there he will go on foot to the Cabildo building -- some 200 meters away -- where he will make a speech. In his walk to Cabildo building, Alfonsin will be escorted by 33 members of the security force. The ministers will make the trip by subway, leaving from Plaza de Mayo station and arriving at Peru station.

On the balcony of the historic Cabildo building, from which Alfonsin will make his first speech in his capacity as constitutional president, he will be accompanied by only 10 persons for security reasons due to the age of the building.

At the end of this ceremony, Alfonsin will go by car to the Foreign Ministry and from there to the Olivos presidential residence. It is quite possible that tonight the new president will attend one of the balls to be held in the capital and two others to be held in Buenos Aires Province.

FORMER PRESIDENT ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON ARRIVES

PY091101 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 9052 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (TELAM) -- Former Argentine President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron arrived in Argentina this morning after living in Spain since July 1981.

The Aerolineas Argentinas flight that brought her from Madrid landed at Ezeiza International Airport at 0650. She was met there by the Interior minister-designate, Antonio Troccoli, Presidential Protocol Director-designate Ricardo Pueyrredon, and the members of the Liaison Committee.

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS ARRIVE FOR INAUGURATION

Italian, Soviet Representatives

PY081823 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1613 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (TELAM) -- Flaminio Piccoli and Ciriaco de Mita, president and secretary, respectively, of the Italian Christian Democrats [DC], arrived in the country today to participate in the inauguration ceremonies for President-elect Raul Alfonsin. Piccoli and De Mita were accompanied by Giulio Orlando, head of the foreign relations department of the Italian DC, and by DC Deputies Gilberto Bonalumi and Vito Lattanzio. At Ezeiza Airport they announced their intention of meeting with Alfonsin to discuss bilateral relations.

The DC delegation will have meetings with representatives of the business world, with the Italian community, and with members of the Argentine Christian Democratic Party. In the evening of 10 December, the delegation will go to Chile and will then continue to Brazil.

The delegation fromthe Soviet Union, headed by Antanas Barkauskas, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, also arrived today for the inauguration ceremonies of the new government. Barkauskas handed the press a copy of an official statement regarding his visit to the country. The document stresses the hope that the relations of constructive cooperation between the USSR and the Argentina will continue developing for the good of the peoples of the two countries, in the interest of strengthening universal peace and solidarity. The statement says: "The USSR invariably bases its relations with the Republic of Argentina, as well as with other countries of the world, on unbreakable principles: peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, sovereign equality, and noninterference in internal affairs."

[Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 1608 GMT on 8 December reported: "Antanas Barkauskas, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who arrived in the country today, stated in reply to a question regarding the health of Yuriy Andropov, head of the Soviet Government, that 'the West has no reason to worry about the health of heads of other states.' In in exclusive statement to DYN, Barkauskas maintained that Andropov is now 'very intensively dedicated to all party and military affairs of the state in his capacity as chairman of the Defense Council of the country.' Barkauskas arrived to preside over the official delegation from the Soviet Union which will attend President-elect Raul Alfonsin's inauguration."]

Cuban Vice President Rodriguez

PY090220 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0206 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (DYN) -- Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez tonight arrived in Argentina to attend the constitutional government's inauguration ceremony. Rodriguez expressed his belief that a meeting between Raul Alfonsin and Fidel Castro depends on an array of international circumstances. He also said that there have been no contacts with the United States regarding the Central America situation.

Rodriguez said that, in principle, Argentina's return to an institutional system would permit new bilateral relations because there will be greater economic possibilities. At the same time, he announced that new contacts are being made to increase [words indistinct] imports in 1984.

Rodriguez said that a generalized war in Central America can and should be prevented, indicating that contacts with the U.S. Administration would be possible from the moment the United States adopts a policy of solving problems through peaceful negotiations and not military intervention. He added: Cuba is ready for discussions with all the forces that can participate positively, because we support the Contadora Group and all the initiatives aimed at finding a negotiated solution, therefore any type of negotiations within this framework cannot be considered unusual.

SOLIDARITY GROUP REPUDIATES PARAGUAY DELEGATION

PY082025 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1928 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (TELAM) -- The Argentine-Paraguayan Solidarity Movement [movimiento de Solidaridad Argentino-Paraguayo -- MOSAP] today repudiated here the presence of the Paraguayan delegation representing Stroessner's tyranny, which is characterized by the systematic violation of human rights and by the subjugation and arbitrary rule to which he has condemned the noble Paraguayan people since May 1954.

This statement is included in a communique signed by MOSAP members Elba de Goiburu, Guillermo Frugoni Rey, and Victor Hugo Pena, among others. Through this communique they repudiated the presence of the official Paraguayan delegation to the ceremony marking the new Argentine president's assumption of power, because the Paraguayan Government has submitted its people to all kinds of tortures and abuse.

AEROFLOT GRANTED FINAL FLIGHT PERMISSION

PY081659 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1422 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (TELAM) -- Aeroflot has been granted permission to operate regular air service between Buenos Aires and Moscow, including passenger, mail, and cargo services. These weekly flights will make stopovers in Budapest (Hungary) and Dakar (Senegal), and model IL-62M planes will be used. The permission now granted by the government through Decree No 3186 is dependent on the Soviet Government's reciprocity regarding a similar flight permission which Aerolineas Argentinas might eventually submit.

Aeroflot is authorized to advertise for air transport business and to appoint Soviet citizens as general manager, operations manager, and engineer as requested. The Aeroflot services will be subject to national laws, regulations, and norms now in force, as well as to those which might result from eventual agreements between Argentina and the USSR. It was noted in the decree's introduction that the Soviet airline has been providing services under temporary permission.

CASTRO MADERO DEFENDS CNEA AT PRESS CONFERENCE

PY081318 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1325 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA) -- Vice Admiral Carlos Castro Madero, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], today stated that since 1976 the Argentine nuclear program has left a debt of "a little less than half the $1.2 billion the country owes for the highways built in Buenos Aires."

During a press conference, Castro Madero also disclosed that next Saturday he will be replaced as president of the CNEA by Renato Radiccela, current president of the CNEA department in charge of international projects.

Castro Madero also denied that U.S. Vice President George Bush, who is arriving in Buenos Aires tomorrow to attend Raul Alfonsin's inauguration, is coming in order to pressure Argentina to place all its nuclear plants under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Answering a question, he stated that is not the United States' way of imposing restrictions (regarding nuclear technology). Asked whether he would cooperate with the foreign minister-designate in drawing up a law which would place nuclear activities under the control of congress, he answered that "it would be my duty to do so if I were requested to cooperate."

At the beginning of the press conference, Castro Madero read a 34-page report containing a detailed account of CNEA activities during 1983. The report lists the goals achieved in the programs regarding nuclear plants; supply to the plants; radio isotopes and radiation; radiation protection and security, and research, development, management, training and support. It also reveals that the cost of production of the Atucha I plant, which "has an interconnected system that generates energy at a lower cost," is $22.4 per megawatt. The report points out that "the amount of reasonably secured reserves of uranium and additional estimated reserves, at a cost of up to $30, is 31,463 tons [as received] [words indistinct] since it increased by 1,100 tons this year."

The report refers to a series of criticisms of the project to set up the uranium enrichment experimental plant in Pilcaniyeu that could produce 20-percent enriched uranium by late 1985. In this regard, the report points out that "in 1978, when the project was started, the only method which had been used to enrich uranium was the gaseous diffusion system" and that ultracentrifugation did not exist at that time. The report points out that "at that time, France had gone quite far in the construction of a nuclear plant using the gaseous diffusion system."

The document points out that it was decided not to make the project public knowledge because, "due to the highly complex technology, it was deemed necessary not to create groundless expectations" before testing whether it would be operational and to "avoid great foreign pressure from trying to prevent us from mastering sensitive technology." It adds that "these pressures could have jeopardized the work at the Embalse plant, the call for bids for the Atucha II plant, and the heavy water industrial plant."

The report categorically rejects the notion that the project impoverished the country because "a historical investment of 112 million Argentine pesos yields technology of much higher value." Among others, it lists the following economic advantages it brought to the country: "It reduced by approximately 10 percent the cost of the Atucha I plant energy production, and the possibility of reusing some 2,500 already irradiated fuel elements in that nuclear plant." Castro Madero's report ends by stating that "despite the country's economic-financial situation, the result of the CNEA activities this year has been very positive."

ATTORNEY GENERAL, SUPREME COURT JUSTICES RESIGN

PY081928 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1428 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (TELAM) -- The resignations of the members of the Supreme Court of Justice and of the attorney general of the nation have been accepted in separate decrees released today.

The resignation of Attorney General Mario Justo Lopez was accepted in Decree No 3253, while the resignations of Supreme Court Magistrate Adolfo Gabrielli and of Justices Elias Guastavino, Julio Jose Martinez Vivor, and Abelardo Rossi were accepted in successive decrees.

JUDGE APPOINTED FOR RATTENBACH REPORT LEAK

PY081825 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2345 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA) -- The executive branch today appointed Vice Admiral Martin Victoriano Baroja, retired, to act as special judge to investigate the leak of the Rattenbach Report to the press. That report established responsibilities for Armed Forces actions during the Malvinas war.

GOVERNMENT PROMULGATES NEW LAW ON MINISTRIES

PY081740 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1602 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (DYN) -- The government today approved and promulgated law No 23023, which redistributes functions among ministries in accordance with a request submitted to President Reynaldo Bignone by President-elect Raul Alfonsin. The new decree establishes that "the administration of the country's affairs will be distributed among the Interior Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Economy Ministry, the Public Works and Services Ministry, the Education and Justice Ministry, the Labor and Social Security Ministry, and the Health and Social Action Ministry.

It also establishes that "the president's war powers and his functions as commander in chief of the Armed Forces are to be exercised through the Defense Ministry." The nation's president is also authorized to assume the functions which now belong to the commanders of each of the three branches of the Armed Forces inasmuch as he is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. It also makes clear that "the president's war powers and his constitutional powers on such matters will be handled by the Defense Ministry." In addition to apportioning specific functions to each ministry, the new law on ministries invalidates all provisions "requiring that management or direction of the central or decentralized public administration, and of nonmilitary security or intelligence organs be exercised by Armed Forces officers on active service or in retirement."

SENATORS ARGUING OVER COMMITTEE DISTRIBUTION

PY081442 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1009 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (DYN) -- Disagreements in the Senate, this time caused by demands from provincial parties' representatives, forced the fifth consecutive postponement of the preparatory session. The demands have to do with the distribution of committees in the Senate.

In view of the attitude of senators representing provincial parties, the provisional president of the Senate, Edison Otero from the UCR [Radical Civic Union], has asked his Peronist colleagues to postpone the preparatory session. The senators for provincial parties will present a counterproposal that the Justicialists will reject outright, according to Vicente Saadi and Julio Amoedo. The Peronists argue that "everything has been agreed on already, and there is nothing to be negotiated," and Amoedo said that "if provincial parties have any demands, they should present them to the Radicals."

Because UCR circles say that the official party will have "a flexible position," a new committee distribution should result only from negotiations between Radicals and provincial parties' representatives.

TRADE UNION WORK COMMISSION HOLDS FIRST MEETING

PY071631 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 6 Dec 83 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- The work commission recently formed by both branches of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), the CGT-Azopardo and the CGT-RA, met for the first time yesterday announcing afterwards it would seek an audience with President-elect Raul Alfonsin as well as with the designated economy, public health, and labour ministers and the heads of both congressional houses to discuss "everything relevant to the labour movement."

The eight-man, inter-CGT commission also called for the government to base the half-year bonus on December's wages rather than on the average of the last six month's pay. During the meeting, which neither CGT-Azopardo Secretary General Jorge Triacca nor CGT-RA Secretary General Saul Ubaldini attended, the commission reportedly also tackled the labour unity issue without making any headway, adjourning the talks until tomorrow.

EXPLOSION DAMAGES PARISH, SCHOOL CAFETERIA

PY081511 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1434 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Neuquen, 8 Dec (NA) -- A powerful explosive device today almost completely destroyed the premises of the parish and school cafeteria in the San Jose neighborhood of this capital. However, no casualties were reported. The self-styled Oberdan Salustro Commando claimed responsibility for the attack through a leaflet that it issued. The explosion also caused a fire, which firemen have just brought under control.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY -- Former Vice President Carlos Humberto Perette has been appointed Argentine ambassador to Uruguay. This was announced by Foreign Minister-designate Dante Caputo, who added that Perette had accepted the post. [Text] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83 PY]

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL, AUDITOR -- Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA) -- President-elect Alfonsin has appointed Juan Octavio Gauna attorney general, and Ricardo Molina prosecutor for the Attorney's Office for Administrative Investigations. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1714 GMT 2 Dec 83 PY]

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY OFFICIALS -- Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (DYN) -- Bruno Ferrari Bono has been appointed secretary of water resources. He will be under the Ministry of Public Works and Services. The other appointees will be under the Energy Secretariat. They are: Ricardo Ciruzzi, under secretary of electrical energy; Jorge Lapegna, under secretary of energy planning; Gustavo Callejas, under secretary of fuels; and Alfredo Storani, under secretary of auditing. [Summary] [buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2339 GMT 23 Nov 83 PY]

FIGUEIREDO AGAINST HURRYING LIBERALIZATION

PY081351 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpts] President Joao Baptista Figueiredo participated in the fellowship luncheon for the three branches of the Armed Forces, which was attended by 123 generals. In his speech, President Figueiredo criticized the politicians' desire for the completion of the political liberalization process. That desire, President Figueiredo pointed out, could only bring back chaos, disorder, indiscipline, and pointless struggle.

[Begin Figueiredo recording] My Comrades: We are coming to the end of another historic milestone in 1983, the fourth year of my constitutional mission. As a military man, I am loyal to the highest national principles.

We have had to face natural misunderstandings by adversaries and regrettable desertion by allies during the first 4 years of our term when we implemented the measures deemed imperative for restoring democratic normality in our country. Now in the fourth year, demands about the presidential succession by opposition and self-styled loyal forces are being exacerbated. They are meant to pressure the government into speeding up the process of democratic liberalization, forgetting that what is fundamental and basic for ensuring a safe course for the democratization process is being done, that is, the strengthening of the institutions, including the military ones. [end recording]

HAVANA CITES LEGISLATORS' LETTER TO CONTADORA

PA071923 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] In a letter addressed to the presidents of the Contadora Group, comprised of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama, more than 200 Brazilian legislators have warned of the possibility that a conflict of unlimited dimensions will break out in Latin America. The document reiterated respect for the defense of the principles of nonintervention and the self-determination of peoples.

Olga Valdes, the Cuban delegate in the UN Legal Affairs Committee, has said that the U.S. objective of increasing its hegemony in Central America runs counter to its proclaimed good-neighbor policy. Valdes added that proof of this is the recent approval of funds for the creation of the anti-Cuban station Radio Marti, which will distort the reality of the Cuban revolutionary process.

BRIEFS

SUGAR SALES TO USSR -- Confucio Pamplona, the president of the IAA [Sugar and Alcohol Institute] has returned from the USSR, where he signed a contract for the sale of 750,000 tons of sugar to that country. The contract foresees 100,000 tons of white sugar being delivered in December; 400,000 tons of crystallized sugar being delivered between December 1983 and June 1984; and 250,000 tons of white sugar being delivered between Feburary and June 1984. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 9 Nov 83 p 15 PY]

PMDB SENATOR DIES -- PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] Senator Teotonio Vilela died of cancer on 27 November 1983 at age 66. [Summary] [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Nov 83 p 1 PY]

ANTARCTICA AS 'MANKIND'S PATRIMONY' IDEA OPPOSED

PY081526 Paris AFP in Spanish 0325 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 7 Dec (AFP) -- Chile's rights in Antarctica would be seriously jeopardized by the application of the concept of mankind's patrimony, which has been proposed by some countries to the UN General Assembly. Fernando Zegers, the Foreign Ministry's Antarctic affairs expert, has said that, in countering the proposed internationalization, the member countries of the Antarctic treaty have noted the scientific and economic efforts demanded by activities for the good of mankind in Antarctica. The Chilean position holds that future discussion of the question cannot change the status quo represented by Chile's claim to sovereignty and its role as co-administrator of the treaty.

NAVY CHIEF REPORTEDLY VISITS BEAGLE CHANNEL

PY081154 Paris AFP in Spanish 0043 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 7 Dec (AFP) -- In Santiago the semiofficial press agency ORBE today disclosed that the Chilean Navy commander, Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, has traveled to the Beagle Channel, the area in dispute between his country and Argentina. The report added that Adm Merino arrived Tuesday at Puerto Williams, located on one side of the Beagle Channel, which stands between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He will also tour Picton, Nueva, and Lennox Islands.

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF COURTS-MARTIAL QUESTIONED

PY081920 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1722 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 8 Dec (EFE) -- The prosecutor of the Supreme Court today termed unconstitutional the decree-law which authorizes the formation of courts-martial in peace time. The prosecutor presented a report on this subject to the Supreme Court, which will have to decide on the appeal on inapplicability of courts-martial presented by the lawyers who are defending those accused of murdering the Santiago intendant, General Carol Uruza, and his two bodyguards.

In his report now submitted to the Supreme Court, the prosecutor states that the decree-law, which is applicable to the formation of courts-martial in time of war, is unconstitutional because it was published in 1981, that is, after the Constitution of 1980, and because it is unconstitutional.

In time of war, the courts can impose sentences much more severe than those imposed in time of peace. Moreover, these sentences are unappealable, closing the doors to later appeal.

UNION BOARD SCORES TERMINATION OF PEM, POJH

PY081940 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 8 Dec 83

[By (Gilda Yermani)]

[Text] The announcement by Santiago Intendant General Roberto Guillard that the Minimum Employment Plan [PEM] will be terminated and that the Employment Program for Heads of Families [POJH] will be reduced has caused alarm and concern in all sectors.

Concerned labor leaders have regarded this measure as a hasty action. The National Union Coordinating Board, headed by Manuel Bustos Huerta, released a statement noting that the termination of the PEM and the POJH unveils our country's real situation and an inability to create productive new jobs.

The board pointed out that workers, distressed by unemployment and misery, are forced to agree to inhuman working conditions to win meager salaries. However, the board remarked, the people's conscience is being awakened. Thus, they are now demanding improved working conditions. This is the struggle of the PEM and POJH workers.

The board voiced its unconditional support for the workers' struggle, demanding that the government work out a real solution and not what the board called a retaliatory measure as announced by the Santiago intendant, who did not offer decent jobs in return for the termination of the PEM and the POJH.

Finally, the National Union Coordinating Board reiterated that it will continue to struggle for social and labor justice, and for the restoration of democracy in Chile.

NEW MILITARY APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED

Army Lists Changes

PY090115 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 Nov 83 pp C1, 8

[Text] Brigadier General Samuel Rojas Perez, of the Infantry School of San Bernardo, has been appointed commander in chief of the Second Army Division.

Brig Gen Rojas Perez will replace Major General Osvaldo Hernandez, who has been appointed chief inspector general of the same institution, by the president of the nation and Army commander in chief.

Rojas Perez was promoted from brigadier to brigadier general on 14 October. On the same date, some generals were confirmed in their posts and others received appointments. As is public knowledge, Brigadier Generals Roberto Guillard Marinot and Sergio Badiola Broberg will continue to serve as intendant of the metropolitan area and as director general of sports and recreation (DIGEDER), respectively.

It has also been announced that Major General Humberto Gordon Rubio will continue to serve as director of the National Intelligence Center during 1984.

Public Works Under Secretary Fernando Hormazabal Gajardo, who was promoted to brigadier general a few days ago, has been appointed executive vice president of the Production Development Corporation (CORFO). He will replace Brigadier General Sergio Perez Hormazabal, who will go to Washington to become chief of the Chilean military mission.

Brigadier General Jorge Dowling Santa Maria will continue to serve as intendant of the first region in Iquique.

Similarly, Brigadier General Eduardo Ibanez T. will continue to serve as intendant of the eighth region in Concepcion and as commander in chief of the 3d Division.

Brigadier General Claudio Lopez Silva has been confirmed as commander in chief of the 4th Division stationed in Valdivia.

Brigadier General Arturo Alvarez Sgolia has been designated director of Army operations.

The following appointments have also been disclosed by unofficial sources:

Brigadier General Rene Videl Basauri, commander of the military garrison of Santiago.

Brigadier General Jorge Zincke Quiroz, commander of military institutes.

Brigadier General Alejandro Medina Lois, commander of the Fifth Army Division.

Brigadier General Julio Andrade A., commander of telecommunications.

Brigadier General Gaston Frez Arancibia, Chilean military attache in London.

Brigadier General Jaime Gonzalez Vergara, commander of the Aysen Brigade.

Brigadier General Eduardo Castellon K., vice commander in chief of the Third Army Division stationed in Concepcion.

Brigadier General Francisco Martinez B., commander of the engineering corps.

Brigadier General Mario Navarrete Barriga, director of the National Academy of Political and Strategic Studies.

Brigadier General Carlos Meirelles M., vice commander in chief of the First Army Division.

Air Force Changes

PY072330 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Nov 83 p C 4

[Text] The Chilean Air Force has appointed a general to be commander of the El Bosque Air Garrison. The new commander is recently promoted Brigadier General Ailliam Arroyo Zaninovich. He will have under his command, in addition to high-ranking officers, the School of Aviation and Special Service, the Aeronautics Politechnique Academy, and maintenance, supply, and other units of the Air Force. This garrison was commanded by a general until 1980.

The new appointment in the Air Force are the following:

General Sergio Pineiro Correa, general director of civil aeronautics.

Brigadier General Sergio Contardo Flores, Air Force general inspector.

Brigadier General Jaime Lavin Farina, commander of the Third Air Brigade of Puerto Montt.

Brigadier General Fernando Silva Corvalan, commander of the First Air Brigade of Iquique.

Brigadier General Jose Quinteros Sprovera to hold a position in the Air Force Staff.

Luis Bobadilla Escalona, aide-de-camp of the Air Force Staff.

Colonel Rene Alzerreca de Gortazar, head of the Chilean Air Mission in Washington.

Colonel Alvaro Lavin Yanez, Chilean air attache in Ecuador.

Colonel Victor Ramirez Naranjo, Chilean air attache in Argentina.

Colonel Joaquin Urzua Ricke, head of the Chilean Air Mission in France.

Colonel Antonio Baguetto, commander of the Anti-aircraft Artillery Regiment of the Colina Garrison.

Colonel Felipe Munoz Saenz de Tejada, head of the Social Welfare Service.

Colonel Fernando Rojas Vender, commander of Wing No 4.

Colonel Juan Saavedra, commander of Wing No 4. [as published]

Colonel Jose Cuadra Rojas, commander of Wing No 5.

Colonel Carlos Baraona Valenzuela, director of the Air War Academy.

Colonel Meximo Venegas Fuentes, director of the Aeronautics Politechnique Academy.

Colonel Gustavo Gonzalez Perez, director of the Capitan Avalos Aviation School.

Colonel Carlos Ottone Mestre, director of the Special Services School.

HAVANA CITES BETANCUR ON BROTHER'S RELEASE

PA081949 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Colombian President Belisario Betancur has flatly denied that officials in his administration held secret talks with the kidnappers of Magistrate Jaime Betancur Cuartas, his brother, who was freed early this morning. The president was happy about his brother's release, but said that as chief of state he cannot be at ease as long as a single Colombian is being held by kidnappers.

Jaime Betancur was kidnapped on 22 November by a National Liberation Army cell that initially made 10 demands for his release. Although the Colombian Government did not yield to any of their demands, the kidnappers told four newsmen who received the hostage at a secret rendezvous that they freed Betancur because they believed their goals had been fulfilled. Jaime Betancur was liberated a few hours prior to the beginning of a national peace rally to reject violence and kidnapping.

During his brother's captivity, President Betancur received numerous expressions of solidarity from Colombian political parties and social and economic sectors, as well as from many chefs of state, including the king and queen of Spain, Cuban President Fidel Castro, the Nicaraguan Government Junta, and Pope John Paul II

HAVANA REPORTS ON DEMONSTRATION FOR PEACE

PA081915 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] On Wednesday the Colombian people carried out an unprecedented activity to reaffirm peace and reject violence. Almost everyone of the 27 million Colombians kept 2 minutes of silence. This was the most impressive Colombian demonstration ever carried out against the violence that has been troubling the country almost without interruption for over 35 years.

The peace event convoked by the Colombian political parties and organizations clearly surpassed the original objective of repudiating the kidnapping of Jaime Betanur, the brother of the Colombian president, who was released by his kidnappers early yesterday morning.

When the 2 minutes of silence were over, church bells tolled, sirens were sounded, car-lights were turned on, white ribbons and papers were thrown from high buildings, and the people sang the Colombian national anthem. Observers have viewed this demonstration as important backing for the peace effort that Colombian President Belisario Betancur is making both domestically and in the Central American area.

BRIEFS

SWISS DONATION -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo and Swiss Ambassador Daniel Dayer have signed an agreement in which Switzerland is donating $250,000 for the rehabilitation of the Cauca region, which suffered an earthquake at the beginning of the year. The donation will be specifically used for the reconstruction of schools in surburban and urban areas. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Dec 83 p 14-B PA]

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA MAKING 24-HOUR VISIT

Ortega's Agenda

PA081513 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and several Nicaraguan ministers will arrive in this city today for a 24-hour visit, en route to Buenos Aires, where they will attend President Raul Alfonsin's inauguration. The aircraft transporting Ortega and his party will land at 0900 at the military base at Mariscal Sucre Airport. President Osvaldo Hurtado and several cabinet members will be on hand to officially welcome them. The two heads of state will be accorded the usual military honors.

After a brief pause at the Quito Hotel, where he will be staying, Commander Ortega will pay a visit to the National Congress, where he will meet with the congressional president and political party leaders. At noon, he will go to Government Palace for a second meeting with the Eduadoran president, and later he will attend a luncheon in his honor at the Presidential House.

At 1530 he will hold a news conference at the Quito Hotel. At 1700 he will visit the vice president of the Republic, and at 1915 he will pay a visit to painter Osvaldo Guayasamin. In the evening, a private reception will be held at the Quito Hotel. Commander Ortega will leave for Buenos Aires early on Friday.

Ortega on Nicaraguan Democracy

PA081843 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, arrived this morning in Quito for an official 24-hour visit. Ortega, who was received at Quito's military air base by President Osvaldo Hurtado, members of the cabinet, and other high-ranking authorities, was accorded the honors due a head of state. Ortega's party includes Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and other Managua government authorities, who will hold meetings with their Ecuadoran counterpart.

Ortega held a work meeting with the president of the Ecuadoran National Congress, and he is currently meeting with President Hurtado at the Presidential House.

In his first statement to the press, Commander Ortega said that in 1985 his country will have a new democratic organization.

[Begin Ortega recording] For the first time, we are making an effort in our country to consolidate and develop a true democracy, an authentic democracy. We have said before that democracy neither begins nor ends with the elections. In Nicaragua, democracy was manifested through the people's participation in a struggle that led to the collapse of the Somoza dictatorship. This was the only path left open to us by the bad U.S. policy.

In Nicaragua, we are building this democracy for the first time. The first step taken in our country to build this democracy was to make a gigantic, a massive effort to make our people literate. We (?believe) that our democracy would be poor if the people were illiterate. Efforts have also been made to promote social programs, to improve the workers' conditions, and to promote a just distribution of wealth. These are the immediate measures that the Sandinist revolution has adopted with the support of national political, economic, and social sectors. [end recording]

D'Escoto on U.S.-Nicaraguan Relations

PA081608 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1448 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Interview with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, at the Mariscal Sucre Airport military base in Quito, upon the arrival of a Nicaraguan delegation led by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junt of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua -- Live]

[Text] [D'Escoto -- in progress] ... Nicaraguan-U.S. relations do not depend on us. The Americans are in fact waging a war against Nicaragua. The U.S. Government is using Somozist mercenaries as its instruments. This is not in response to anything that we might be doing. If anything, it means that they cannot resign themselves to the victory of the Sandinist people's revolution in Nicaragua, and that they feel this victory and this process set an example that they want to crush. We cannot surrender. We must go on fulfilling the commitment made to our people that a transformation would be achieved in Nicaragua. So I don't fully understand your question about what we are planning to do. [words indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] In any event, the U.S. Government has set the prerequisite that the current government should hold a dialogue with the opposition. Will.... [D'Escoto interrupts] We do not accept any prerequisites set by the U.S. Government. There is international law; we respect that law. Certain norms must be observed by the various countries in their relations with other sovereign states, and by the various governments in their relations with other states. There is also the UN Charter. I think it suffices that all countries should abide by these principles, and the United States must abide by them as well. Thus, it is not a matter of saying that either the United States or Reagan can run our country. No, no, no.

BRIEFS

HYDROCARBON INDUSTRIALIZATION -- The Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, will sign a contract with several Brazilian enterprises to obtain the technical advice needed to carry out a fertilizer project. The advisory services will extend to the area of exploration, development, exploitation, transport, and industrialization of natural gas, and to the commercialization of ammonia and urea. This project is included in CEPE's plan for the industrialization of hydrocarbons. Under this plan, a mixed company, in which CEPE is to participate with 30 percent of the capital, is to be organized and charged with the execution of the fertilizer project. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 83 PA]

WAR MINISTER VIEWS TERRORISM, DRUG TRAFFICKING

PY081438 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] War Minister General Oscar Brush Noel has stated that terrorist acts do not and will not jeopardize democracy in our country because the Armed Forces, which fully support the constitutional government, will prevent it. The following are some of his comments:

[Begin recording] [Brush Noel] I would say that it is a bit early to talk about the next government. I think that the elections are scheduled for 1985, and I have confidence that the Peruvian people are a democratic, Christian people. Therefore, they have deeply rooted convictions and will know what type of government is best for them.

[Unidentified reporter] To set the people's mind at ease, in view of the latest really frightening reports, could you tell us whether there is real support and guarantees for our democratic regime?

[Brush Noel] Well, we were very sad when the three guards were murdered, and we were also very sad when two dynamite sticks exploded in Ayacucho, but this does not and never will jeopardize our democracy -- not even a group of communist murderers who belong to Shining Path threaten the fatherland and life. That is what the Armed Forces, which fully support the constitutional government, are here to prevent.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, the Armed Forces are engaged in the anti-terrorist struggle, but several members of congress have voiced the need for the Armed Forces also to engage in the struggle against drug trafficking. What do you have to say about this?

[Brush Noel] Well, the security forces are in charge of the struggle against drug trafficking [words indistinct] corresponds to the Peruvian Investigative Police. All we can do is help them, but we cannot interfere in the prevention of drug trafficking until we are ordered to do so. We are subject to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, that is, the president of the Republic. We believe that the police forces are very well prepared to struggle against drug trafficking. [end recording]

'TERRORIST' PRISONERS REBEL IN EL FRONTON PRISON

PY081150 Paris AFP in Spanish 0216 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 7 Dec (AFP) -- Justice Ministry authorities have disclosed that some 350 persons charged with terrorist actions today rebelled in the prison on El Fronton Island, located in Callao Port, and threatened to kill two prison employees they have taken hostage. The prisoners rebelled this morning in the Blue Wing demanding better treatment for their comrades in Lurigancho Prison, located on the outskirts of Lima. The prisoners in that jail also rebelled last Saturday in the British Wing, where they set mattresses on fire. The Fronton prisoners are also demanding that their food be improved, that they be allowed to be visited by their relatives, that their visitors not be registered and that they be allowed intimate contact with their wives.

This afternoon a committee appointed by the interior minister headed by Rodolfo Rojas, deputy director or prisons, went to the prison, but the prisoners refused to negotiate with him. The prisoners said that they would only negotiate with Director of Prisons Miguel Gonzalez, to whom they have given a midnight deadline, local time (0500 GMT), for him to visit the prison. If he does not comply, they said, they will kill their two hostages, Corporal Julio Capahuaca and prison employee Luis Sarro. The security authorities have sent 80 policemen to El Fronton to strengthen security.

COURT BARS BLANCO POLITICIANS' TRIP TO ARGENTINA

PY081632 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0104 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 7 Dec (EFE) -- The Uruguayan military court has denied three National (Blanco) Party leaders, accused of "attacking the morality of the Armed Forces" permission to travel to Buenos Aires. Alberto Saez de Zumaran, Horacio Terra Gallina, and Carlos Rocha Imaz, leaders of the political sector following exiled leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, had requested authorization to travel to the inauguration of Raul Alfonsin.

The three Blanco leaders were arrested last year during the campaign for primary elections, and then prosecuted by the military court. They were later released, but the court proceedings against them continued. They therefore requested authorization from the military judge who is hearing the case to leave the country temporarily. The judge denied the authorization.

HAVANA INTERVIEWS 26 MARCH MOVEMENT'S OLIVERA

PA080419 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Interview with Jose Pedro Olivera, Uruguayan 26 March Movement representative in Brazil, by Pedro Martinez Pirez, on 7 December 1983 in Havana -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Martinez] Jose Pedro, how are the Brazilian people showing their support for the Uruguayan people's democratic and revolutionary cause?

[Olivera] The Brazilian political parties, labor organizations, church, and people in general maintain a solidarity that is very important to our people's cause. I would say they feel as if they themselves have suffered through all the ills inflicted on the Uruguayan people by the fascist dictatorship.

[Martinez] Olivera, there is the impression, now that the Uruguayan people are more active -- according to recent reports some 400,000 persons participated in a demonstration against the dictatorship -- now that Brazil's solidarity with the Uruguayan people has increased, and now that Argentina and Bolivia have had significant changes of government, that Gregorio Alvarez' dictatorship is being isolated.

[Olivera] It is true that each day the dictatorship is more isolated internally and internationally. But let us not be carried away by this. The truth is that the dictatorship is not going to collapse by itself. We know this. We also realize that our power lies in the people, in their ability to act and struggle, not just to overthrow the dictatorship but to defend their government.

[Martinez] What would you say are the most serious problems that the Uruguayan people face?

[Olivera] First, all the political prisoners must be freed; second, all political groups must have equal rights; third, the serious economic problems affecting the people must be solved immediately; and fourth, a national constituent assembly should be democratically elected by the Uruguayan people.

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS CONTADORA GROUP MEETINGS

PA0822335 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 Dec 83 pp A-1, A-14

[Article by Luis Lamboglia]

[Text] Panama City, (ANSA) -- Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega Duran yesterday said that the new clashes between Honduras and Nicaragua will in no way affect the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve peace in the region, because that is the will of the five Central American nations.

"We are awaiting further reports on the clashes, which have occurred on other occasions, but I do not believe that they will affect the peace plan of the Contadora Group and the five Central American foreign ministers," Ortega Duran said.

In contrast to Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, an FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] guerrilla leader, the Panamanian foreign minister said that now more than ever, a peaceful rather than military solution to the regional conflict is in sight.

Calero Portocarrero and other anti-Sandinist guerrillas last week met with U.S. special envoy Richard Stone. Ortega Duran stated that there has not yet been a final report on that meeting.

The foreign minister described the meeting of the nine Contadora Group and Central American deputy foreign ministers as positive, because the specific topics to be discussed at the 20-21 December summit of the nine foreign ministers were chosen.

"No final agreements will be reached at the upcoming foreign ministers meeting. I hope that we can agree on methods of reaching those final agreements," Ortega Duran said. He noted that "we are now beginning the definitive negotiations, because that is the will of the five Central American countries."

Ortega Duran said that the democratization changes that have taken place in Nicaragua are a result of the Contadora Group's efforts, but that these changes also reflect the content of the five nations' final agreements and negotiations.

FMLN-FDR REQUESTS PARTICIPATION IN CONTADORA

PA081452 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Mexico City -- The FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission has asked the Contadora Group to allow representatives of the Salvadoran insurgents to participate in the Contadora Group Technical Commission's meeting. This meeting will be held prior to a Contadora Group foreign ministers' meeting to be held in Panama. According to sources close to the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission, the Salvadoran insurgents would seek to explain the current Salvadoran situation as well as the FMLN-FDR's position in favor of a negotiated political solution to the Salvadoran civil war.

The request was submitted to the Mexican Government, Contadora's major supporter, by leaders of the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission during a secret visit to Mexico City. During their 2-day visit, the FMLN-FDR leaders met with high-ranking officials of the Mexican Foreign and Government Secretariats. The latter is the Mexican equivalent of the Interior Ministry.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT MONGE DISCUSSES NEUTRALITY, NICARAGUA

PM090913 Madrid ABC in Spanish 4 Dec 83 pp 56-57

[Interview with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge by Alfredo Semprun; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Mr. President, who is bothered by Costa Rica's neutrality?

Answer: In my country there are certain conservative groups that have not assimilated this decision. They would have liked to see us at war with Nicaragua. They are the same people who have fervently supported the Army's reinstatement or any kind of direct action against Sandinism.

Abroad, it is the communist international, its propaganda apparatus, that is striving to portray us as an aggressor country, whereas in fact we are the ones being attacked. It is strange, but Nicaragua is attacking us more than Honduras. The Managua government knows that the guerrilla attacks do not originate from Costa Rican territory, but nevertheless there is a stream of complaints.

I interpret this attitude as a campaign against the democratic system. They are more concerned about their position gaining moral battles in Costa Rica than military ones in Honduras.

They have succeeded in doing us much harm in Europe. Some Europeans believe that we are militarizing, that we belong to CONDECA, or that we are installing U.S. troops on our soil. They believe that we are Washington's pawn.

Question: Nevertheless, Mr President, it cannot be denied that part of the Nicaraguan opposition acts freely in its own country. What is your government's position with regard to Eden Pastora's and Alfonso Robelo's anti-Sandinist movements?

Answer: In response to our tradition as a country of asylum -- a tradition so strong that it has become a constitutional norm -- political scope has been granted to Nicaraguan dissidents. But we have also told them that there is no room for military actions.

The military chiefs are well aware that we are doing our utmost to prevent our territory from being turned into a base for military operations against third countries. The Civil Guard acts incisively when it discovers groups of armed men or weapons caches, but Nicaragua grants us none of this. We can do no more. The Costa Rican people would oppose our expulsion of those who confine themselves to political activity in our country because they lack the freedom to do so in their own country.

With regard to whether some attacks originate from Costa Rica, my question is quite clear. If we can achieve a certain degree of monitoring of the border with 1,000 men at most, why can they, with 15,000 troops and militiamen on the same territory, not prevent Pastora's actions? What the commanders fail to acknowledge is that the guerrilla action is in their own country. The fact is that they want us to abandon our policy of granting asylum. They forget that they enjoyed much greater advantages. They forget the pressures exerted by Somoza, the machinegun attacks carried out by his National Guard in our villages. Now the commanders are criticizing us and are mobilziing their propaganda machine to do the same as we did with them. And they were not the exception. At least three former Venezuelan presidents sought exile in Costa Rica.

Question: Do you believe that it is possible for a war to break out in Central Ameirca?

Answer: We have done our utmost to avert it. I do not believe that any other country has given the Contadora Group more support than Costa Rica. A war between Nicaragua and Honduras threatens to spread to the entire region. Central America's "Vietnamization" is not impossible but, on the contrary, very likely. Until recently I was very confident that the threat of a war had been averted. But now, without being certain -- as you know, we have no intelligence and espionage services -- I fear that I was too optimistic. Certain reports prompt me to harbor doubts about the futute of peace in the region.

Question: Can you reveal the substance and sources of these reports?

Answer: Of course I cannot tell you the their sources, but I can tell you that they refer to military activities going on in Central America -- both in Nicaragua and in the northern countries. Other data comes from simple assessments of police reports. The rest could be called intuition. No, I really am not as optimistic as I was a few months ago.

Question: So do you no longer believe in a peaceful solution? Not even in the advances promised at the next Contadora Group meeting? It is even said that Nicaragua is starting to become more politically open-minded and is gradually doing away with foreign advisers.

Answer: For the Contadora Group to succeed, the Central American countries would have to accept three indispensable preconditions. The first two are obvious: to reduce their level of armaments -- never in the history of Central Ameirca has the quality and quantity of weapons been so frightening -- and to establish free, pluralistic, and democratic governments. The third condition is perhaps the most important, and therefore, the most difficult for all sides to accept. They would have to accept bona fide supervision of their respective political processes. The establishment of entirely independent watchdog committees would be essential to ensuring this arms reduction, the withdrawal of foreign military advisers, and free elections. There is not much to say about the coming Panama meeting. There must be insistence on the commitments to pluralistic and free governments for Central America. This is indispensable.

Question: Several governments, including Nicaragua, accuse Costa Rica of seeking a closer alliance with the United States and of violating the principles of neutrality.

It is claimed that negotiations are in progress to bring in military engineers, supposedly just the advance guard of the real troops.

Answer: This is a typical example of the campaign that the communist international is conducting against my country. I will tell you that we have discussed this possibility with the United States. But permit me to explain it to you from the beginning. The U.S. National Guard must, by law, train in the construction of public works in its own country. Such works would be very useful to us, because we have a great problem with regard to land communications. this is what we discussed with the United States as part of a series of accords. Some units of the National Guard could carry out their practical training in the northern region, constructing dirt roads -- tracks -- linking population centers now isolated almost throughout the year with the trade routes. But the communist mentality could not accept the United States' helping Costa Rica in exchange for nothing. They tried to portray it as a covert military intervention against Nicaragua. Ultimately we will suffer the most harm. Unfortunately this kind of propaganda is not their only way of harming us.

Question: Mr President, you are doubtless referring to the destabilization attempts along the Atlantic coast.

Answer: To that and to other matters. The Atlantic coastline affair is under control for the time being. Our security services have detected subversive movements, though only local. Extreme left-wing Costa Rican groups that are taking advantage of the economic risis to organize wildcat strikes and riotous protests -- that is all there is to it. The most important thing, I repeat, is the systematic campaign of denigration against Costa Rica, which could cause us much harm by portraying us abroad as a country that we are not and do not wish to be.

EL SALVADOR

POLITICAL CRIME LEGISLATION TO BE REPEALED

PA080405 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0016 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Constituent Assembly today approved a temporary article of the new Constitution establishing that the special legislation on political crimes will cease on 28 February 1984.

Decree No 507, issued by the former civilian-military government junta presided over by Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte, has been in effect since December 1980. It regulates the legal procedures applicable to the crimes of treason, espionage, rebellion, and sedition, as well as other crimes against the state's independence.

The abolition of Decree No 507 has been requested on innumerable occasions by unions in the country as well as by political and humanitarian organizations that consider it "contrary to human rights."

According to this decree, the arraignment of a political prisoner is carried out only by military judges named by the Supreme Court on a request from the Defense Ministry. These judges are appointed on a permanent basis and are legally qualified throughout the country. A trial can be initiated through a denouncement, accusation, or (?routine investigation), and once initiated the military judge can order the temporary arrest of the accused or his release within 72 hours, according to proceedings.

Article 507 states that a verbal or written extrajudicial confession given before any judge, except the judge handling the case, and approved by two witnesses is sufficient proof to take a suit to a higher court.

It adds that to establish that an accused belongs to a group threatening the state's security, "confirmation by any form of media, national or foreign, will suffice."

The Constituent Assembly approved three other temporary articles of the new Constitution today, ratifying the call for presidential elections on 25 March 1984 in Article No 253, which will be effective until its objective has been fulfilled.

ARMY BEGINS MILITARY OPERATION IN USULUTAN

PA090243 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Relayed report by Raul Beltran]

[Text] A large-scale military operation began yesterday in Usulutan Department, concentrating near the provinces of Jucuapa, Chinameca, Santiago de Maria, Alegria, and Berlin, which is the region in Usulutan where coffee -- a basic commodity for our national economy -- is grown.

Air and artillery units are also participating in the counterinsurgency operations. They are constantly patrolling the area in an attempt to restore order and expel from the area rebels who have been obstructing the coffee harvest in these towns during the past few weeks.

Guerrillas have been occupying La Esperanza farm in Santiago de Maria for 2 days. According to civilian sources, there are some 500 rebels in the area. Property owners and neighbors of La Esperanza farm reported that some of the guerrillas have been destroying part of the property, and others have been guarding the farm, in order to detect soldiers in the area. The rebels stopped several trucks loaded with coffee coming from this sector yesterday and last Tuesday. The trucks were not allowed to leave until late in the evening when the coffee was already spoiled, which resulted in heavy losses for coffee producers in Santiago de Maria.

Since early today, there has been heavy fighting in the Province in Jucuapa, Usulutan Department, in the Los Arenales and La Ceiba canton sector, on the road from Jucuapa to the Province of Santa Elena. Soldiers of the Arce and Atonal Bettalions and of Usulutan's 4th Detachment are participating in the counterinsurgency operations in Jucuapa.

There was artillery firing throughout the night and early today from artillery pieces stationed in Chinameca. Air Force planes have also been overflying the sector in order to follow the guerrilla movement.

Farms which had been occupied in the Province of Jucuapa have already been recovered by Army soldiers, currently pursuing leftist elements in the southern sector of Jucuapa Province, where intense fighting occurred at noon today.

The coffee harvest in this sector has been suspended since last Tuesday. This afternoon military sources from Aguilares reported that in Suchitoto, since last Wednesday, a plane has been shelling guerrilla positions on Mirandia Hill, where leftists and numerous groups of residents known as mass population [poblacion de masas] have been mobilizing. Reports from Sensuntepeque, Cabanas Department, note that patrolling activities near this city and neighboring towns conducted by troops of the Cobras Detachment have increased in the past few days, especially this week.

According to the same military reports, several rebels have been detained, and there have been clashes in various parts of Cabanas Department, with no resulting casualties for the Army.

In Jucuaran, Usulutan Department, civilian sources have also reported that armed clashes have taken place in this region in the past few hours, particularly on the coastal highway leading to Jucuaran.

Leftists detained several Health Ministry workers yesterday afternoon. Other workers were held until the fighting was over, and were then released.

GUERRILLAS OFFER SAFE HARVEST FOR LABOR BENEFITS

Offer Explained

WA081000 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Nov 83 p 3

[Excerpt] San Salvador (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran guerrillas will permit farmers to harvest the coffee crop this year if they fulfill a series of labor conditions, according to what has been learned from propaganda distributed in the eastern part of the country.

The guerrillas are asking for a daily wage of 14 colones ($5.60) for the harvesters, who presently receive 11 colones ($4.40).

Likewise, the conditions imposed by the insurgents include a 7-hour workday, Monday through Friday; double-time wages for work on Saturday and Sunday; and full pay in the event of absence due to "illness or justified cause," labor practices that are not currently in force.

The guerrillas have promised not to interfere with the harvest this year if these requirements are met by the landholders. During the previous harvest, the guerrillas destroyed approximately 20 trucks used to transport coffee to the processing plants.

Details of Wage Scale

PA021206 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Text] The FMLN has established the following wage scale for the current coffee harvest season: 4.50 colones per 25 pounds of coffee beans harvested; 1.35 colones for lunch periods worked; and 18.00 colones as special bi-weekly pay [pago por septimo de quincena] Coffee plantation owners and managers must also provide the following privileges: housing facilities, freedom to organize, and medical care for coffee harvesters. Rural workers should report to the FMLN if owners fail to comply with these demands.

Peasants, organize. The FMLN is struggling for the rights of all workers, and it is, at this moment, implementing social justice, which it will extend upon achieving final victory.

Resistance to Plan

PA031248 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Local radio stations have reported that some coffee plantation owners in the eastern part of the country have preferred to let the coffee harvest go to waste, rather than pay the coffee harvesters a just wage. The plantation owners are refusing to pay the 4.50 colones per 25 pounds of coffee beans harvested, an amount that the FMLN hs established as a just wage for the workers. However, we could not expect anything else from a minority that has obtained its wealth through the exploitation of the workers. The attitude assumed by the coffee plantation owners who prefer to lose their crop and that portion of the profits which rightfully belongs to the peasants simply confirms the urgent need to continue with the Salvadoran workers' and peasants' liberation war.

It is obvious that the coffee plantation owners, with millions to spare, are not worried about the coffee harvest, they simply do not care if the crop is lost. They do not care about the national economy, yet they are always complaining about the economic crisis.

The traditional exploiters of the people have once again proved their absolute contempt for the peasants and their families, who depend on the 3-month harvest season for their survival during the rest of the year.

The plantation owners should ponder what they are doing. History is irreversible, and it is advancing in the direction of progress and justice, as the workers continue the struggle to obtain their ideals by the use of arms, and the shedding of their blood, if necessary.

The miserable exploiters of the people must not forget the year 1932, when the coffee plantation owners made the unwise decision not to harvest the coffee because prices had dropped on the international market. At that time, our heroic peasants staged a rebellion, but their machetes and hoes were not sufficient to defeat the voracious exploiters. In 1983, the situation is different -- the workers and peasants have a strong revolutionary army capable of defeating the exploiters and the imperialist monster.

The Salvadorans have realized that they are the physical and spiritual force of the nation This time the workers are united and prepared to run the country, to see that justice is carried out and that the criminals pay for their crimes. The people's victory will mark the day of justice for the Salvadoran people.

Harassment on Coffee Farms

PA031820 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Excerpts] We have a report from our country's eastern region by our correspondent: [Begin relay] From the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front, this is Aurora Garcia. Elite Atonal Battalion troops trained by U.S. advisers, are constantly carrying out searches and harassment actions on coffee farms in California, Jiquilisco jurisdiction in Usulutan Department.

Oligarch Lydia de Canesa, a farm owner, has imposed thorough searches throughout the farm and is keeping a permanent watch on those entering and leaving the farm. Guards search all the personal belongings of workers. This is done to [word indistinct] the gathering of crops. We also report the miserable salary she is paying workers: up to 12.50 [colones] per quintal.

We demand the withdrawal of repressive individuals from coffee farms. [Words indistinct] 18 colones per quintal of coffee picked. This was your correspondent at the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front. [end relay]

FMLN RADIO DIRECTOR DISCUSSES COMMUNICATIONS

PA080405 Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish Nov-Dec 83 pp 37-41

["Exclusive" interview with Haroldo, political chief of the Radio Farabundo Marti clandestine radio station in El Salvador, by an unidentified correspondent in Chalatenango -- no date given]

[Excerpts] Question: Before talking about the radio station, we would like to know about the general framework of the revolutionary media on the war fronts. What is the relationship between the revolutionary media and the development of the political, military, and mass organizations?

Haroldo: In the first place, we wish to thank the well-known magazine DIALOGO SOCIAL for the opportunity to address the Central American and Latin American people on the subject of an important front within the people's war of liberation: propaganda. Our activities as a revolutionary radio, an expression of the people's power, are closely linked to the idea that our work is simply another means of fighting within the revolution's general plans. When we talk about propaganda, we are not simply referring to means and messages; more important, we are talking about a new kind of power -- the people's power. We see propaganda as a means by which the people's forces recognize their own power. The people see their war of liberation in the revolutionary propaganda, and their actions (political, military, cultural, etc.) achieve historic significance as a result. These actions are closely linked with each other and, together, comprise the visual and objective practice of power by the working classes, the peasants, and the people.

Question: The experience in El Salvador reveals great development in the guerrillas' media. What are the information systems available to the FMLN-FDR, and how has this development been achieved?

Haroldo: Our Farabundo Marti Front has engaged in important work, through various means, on all three kinds of territory established by the war: territory under the people's control, territory in dispute, and territory under the enemy's heel.

We have done a tremendous job of printing leaflets, flyers, signs, and newspapers. We use manual printing methods in addition to mimeograph, silk-screening, and industrial mimeographs. We are also involved in important audio-visual work, producing video-cassettes and films. Important cinema festivals have awarded deserved recognition to our films, including "El Salvador, the People Will Win," "Letters from Morazan," and others. Earlier this year in Chalatenago, we began the very rewarding use of popular mobile cinema. Our companeros include our films in a series of artistic activities, such as popular shows. These remind us of one of the most popular expressions of art and show business in El Salvador, the poor people's circus.

We must also mention our film crews, which are increasingly present on the battlefield. Our people's communications system also includes work with international press agencies. We also fight actively against the capitalists' transnational press agencies. Our Radio "Farabundo Marti" and the people's correspondents are part of these news media for the people.

Thus, we utilize different means: local means (among the peasants, such as the bulletin board newspaper in a guerrilla camp, the flyers that circulate in the factories and workers' neighborhoods in San Salvador, etc.) and national and international means (which is the case with our radio stations, press agencies, movies, etc.). I would add that there are other means of information available to our people: novels, poetry, personal statements, sculpture and paintings, and music. These also express the new viewpoint being heard in El Salvador and Latin America, the viewpoint of the exploited people.

Question: What are Radio Farabundo Marti's characteristics; how does it work, and what are its programs?

Haroldo: First of all, Radio "Farabundo Marti" is a revolutionary radio station that struggles, with the working classes and the people, against the puppet dictatorship, the oligarchy, and U.S. imperialism. Its work reflects the people's need to achieve liberation, to establish a revolutonary democratic government, and to recover our sovereignty, genuine independence, and self-determination. It is an expression of the people's power and it has been installed in Chalatenango, one of the rebels' areas, where the Salvadorans have already begun to build a new homeland. Therefore, it is a means of combat.

Question: How is Radio "Farabundo Marti's" information system integrated? What are its relationships with "Radio Venceremos," "Radio Guazapa," and "Radio Unidad"?

Haroldo: In order to guarantee our flow of information, revolutionary guidance, and the education of the Salvadoran people, Radio "Farabundo Marti" has war correspondents and popular correspondents; it monitors local and international radio stations; and it has support groups in North America and Europe that report acts of international solidarity with El Salvador and the Central American people.

As for its relationships with the other FMLN radio stations, we currently coordinate an exchange of information about all political and military actions on the various war fronts. This is very important in presenting unified, objective information on the Salvadoran people's actions in their struggle for liberation.

Question: What are the roles of the mobile units, the correspondents at the main station and the station's different section?

Haroldo: We have gained the greatest experience from our popular correspondents. We have organized a national network of correspondents, including the city of San Salvador. We define a correspondent as a companero who is a part of the revolutionary forces and who has the task of reporting to the people about the events and actions carried out in this war of liberation, as an expression of their power. He is contributing decidedly to the victorious impetus given the current phase of battles that are devisive for our assumption of power. Therefore, he is closely linked to the people and their struggle because his activity is a part of the struggle itself. The correspondent is, therefore, someone who is a part of our propaganda, and he is not tied to anyone's interests by a salary. His notes, reports or information are also a part of the revolutionary process, but he is also prepared to fight with weapons. His whole life is involved directly in his work.

Question: What problems are being experienced by Radio "Farabundo Marti" and the other radio stations in their political-military work, which includes maintaining an active program schedule for more than a year?

Haroldo: Our problems are those derived from the war imposed on El Salvador by the U.S. imperialist Government.

The dictatorship, using a backward system, jams the FMLN radio's signals. Even doing so, however, it cannot prevent our people from hearing our broadcasts, and our influence is important among the urban and rural masses. We are the direct expression of the people's movement and we are objective in this context.

Climatic conditions also create a problem for our audio and transmission equipment. Despite our care, the harsh climate (summer is hot and winter is rainy in El Salvador) forces us to replace equipment, which is practically impossible to repair. This is one of our main problems.

Question: How does Radio "Farabundo Marti" combat enemy interference?

Haroldo: So far we have used two methods: First, we split our signal whenever we detect the enemy's interferences, second, we transmit on more than one frequency so that a clean signal is always available when one is being interfered with. We consider our struggle against this interference to be the people's struggle against their enemies in the area of communications.

Question: How can the Central American and Latin American people hear Radio "Farabundo Marti"? Give us details on hours of transmission, frequencies, and ways of improving reception.

Haroldo: Our signal is heard on frequencies close to the 7 MHz 40 meter band, shortwave. On a regular basis, we are on the air at 0630, 1230, and 1900. Even though reception varies with atmospheric conditions, the best reception for Latin American countries will probably be during nighttime hours. In any event, you can improve reception by attaching a copper wire to your radio antenna, running the other end out your window, and stretching it between two bushes. You could also connect the wire to your television antenna.

Question: Explain the local people's governments and their relationship to the work being done by Radio "Farabundo Marti's" system.

Haroldo: The local people's governments are one of the Salvadoran people's most important achievements ever. They are the specific expression of the new people's government, and they are expanding regularly through our territory. They are the people governing themselves, creating legislation and principles for the new man's behavior in society, they are expressions of the new sovereign power that defends national interests against a local Army that serves as an army of occupation, led and trained by the U.S. Government.

We have recently taken a highly important step: We have passed from local people's governments to regional people's governments, a kind of government that is more developed in every way. Radio "Farabundo Marti" attended the installation of the first regional government in Chalatenango, and the platform for this government -- which was widely broadcast by us -- caused considerable concern among the oligarchy's media. It was the most tangible expression of an end to the oligarchy's power, which was always based on their theft of the people's work. Our radio station is another instrument of the people's power and we are here to strengthen and increase it.

HAVANA CITES VENCEREMOS ON U.S. ACTIVITIES

PA081925 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The Salvadoran FMLN has charged that U.S. troops participating with Honduran troops in the Big Pine II joint military maneuvers are getting dangerously close to the Salvadoran border.

Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, has reported that these maneuvers are currently being carried out in La Esperanza, a Honduran area only a few kilometers away from Morazan Department, the bulwark of the Salvadoran guerrillas.

The radio station recalled that a few days ago a U.S. helicopter took off from Honduran territory to make a reconnaissance flight over a northern Morazan area under rebel control.

In San Salvador, the committee of mothers and relatives of missing persons and political prisoners has charged that 52 persons have disappeared in the past 3 weeks in the country, and that this figure is increasing alarmingly.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, has stated that the Salvadoran guerrillas have demonstrated that they are undeniably superior to the Army in spite of the millions of dollars that the U.S. Government is investing in military aid to the Alvaro Magana regime.

After noting that the U.S. military advisers can do nothing to give morale and goals to an Army whose commanders engage in torture and murder, White said this is the time to accept the revolutionaries' often-stated offer to search, without previous conditions, for a political way out of the Salvadoran conflict.

GUATEMALA

NEW ARMY LAW SETS ORGANIZATION, MEMBERSHIP RULES

PA082035 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The Executive Branch has approved Decree-Law 149-83 providing a new Guatemalan Army law. In its first chapter, this law establishes that the Army is the institution in charge of safeguarding and maintaining the independence, sovereignty, and honor of the nation, as well as the territorial integrity and peace of the republic. The new law went into effect yesterday.

The Guatemalan Army is one and indivisible, apolitical, and essentially subordinate and nondeliberating. It is comprised of integrated air, sea, and ground forces. It has a hierarchical organization, and it is based on the principles of discipline and obedience. Therefore, to organize paramilitary or militia forces outside the institution is prohibited. The organization of such forces is a punishable act.

The fundamental principles of the Army law stipulate that if the state requires it, or if a state of war is declared, adult Guatemalan women who are physically and mentally able will perform obligatory military service as well as perform functions in posts compatible with their personal aptitudes and conditions.

Regarding the military situation of officers, there will be three categories in the Guatemalan Army: Active service, reserve, and retirement. The first category includes officers who are physically and mentally able and are not of retirement age. Military men will automatically pass into the retirement category when there is a certified statement that they have become physically or mentally unfit, if they develop an incurable chronic or contagious disease, after 33 years of service, or when they reach retirement age.

TROOPS CLASH WITH GUERRILLAS IN EL PETEN

PA072235 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Flores, Peten -- A strong armed clash between an Army reconnaissance patrol and guerrilla units belonging to the Rebel Armed Forces, FAR, took place on the shores of (Mendoza) Lake, 70 km north of Flores, Peten, in the jurisdiction of La Libertad, according to our correspondents. Official reports provided at the Peten military base indicate that the clash lasted some 30 minutes and that the military managed to dislodge the guerrillas, who sought protection at a camp that they had built in the area.

After the guerrillas were dislodged, the military patrol searched the area and found footsteps and traces of blood, which led to the assumption that the guerrillas had suffered many injuries, the number and gravity of which could not be established, however.

The army patrol also found weapons. In their flight, the guerrillas left behind arms, medicine, food, uniforms, [word indistinct], women's clothing, radio equipment, blankets painted with subversive slogans, and propaganda with the FAR's acronym, as well as some (?plants) from the region, according to reports. Among the confiscated arms are M-16 rifles, M-79 grenade launchers, shotguns, rifles of various types and calibers, a large quantity of ammunition, individual emergency first aid kits, and cold rations.

The troops are continuing to search the area for the guerrillas, who are probably scattered all over the region where the Army is currently engaged in efforts to persuade collaborators with the guerrillas to change their attitude and accept the Government's amnesty, according to the official reports from the military base.

TERRORIST ATTACKS KILL 1 POLICEMAN, WOUND 5

PA081957 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Terrorists tonight attacked five police checkpoints located on various roads leading out of Guatamala City. In these attacks, one policeman was killed and five others were wounded. The clandestine Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, claimed responsibility for the attacks in phone calls to the news media.

The attacks were carried out at 1800, at the same time that a local memorial celebration was taking place. The shots molded with the sound of firecrackers being set off.

In some cases, policemen were able to repel the attack, while in others they were taken by suprise. This is what happened at checkpoint 7 on the highway to the Atlantic, where one policemen was killed. Another checkpoint was attacked with a grenade and rifle fire, wounding five policemen.

HONDURAS

SECRETARY FLORES FACUSSE ON CONTADORA, U.S.

PA072211 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 83

[News conference held by Presidential Office Secretary Carlos Roberto Flores Facusse on 6 December, place not given, questioners not identified -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Flores Facusse] We think that the Contadora Group's peace effort has been truly positive and significant. Naturally, we believe that the primary solution to our problems lies with the Central American peoples themselves. But as we have said before, the Contadora Group has made a variety of positive advances.

[Question] Would the negative aspect then be that Contadora does not yet have a complete picture of the developments in Central America, that (?it might miss the point), and that, as a consequence, Honduras might not accept the decisions that are made?

[Flores Facusse] I wouldn't say that. We believe that the Contadora Group can bring together (?all) interests in the Central American area, as observers, as a good-offices group. However, if the Central Americans must resolve their own problems, then the Central Americans themselves must propose solutions to those problems.

[Question] The United States says that its troops will remain here until the Honduran Government no longer needs them. How long do you think that U. S. troops should remain in Honduran territory?

[Flores Facusse] We have said before that Nicaragua has a huge and disproportionate military capability, which has disrupted the military balance in Central America. For example, during the Sandinists' struggle against the Somozist dictatorship, the National Guard had about 9,000 Guardsmen [words indistinct]. At this point we are speaking about an Army that can arm 120,000 individuals.

This disproportionate growth completely disrupts [words indistinct]. Nicaragua's force is obviously superior to that of the combined forces of the other Central American countries. We have also said that we must have a balance of forces in order to negotiate peace here in Central America. One cannot undertake positive negotiations when one of the negotiating parties is significantly weaker militarily; a military balance must exist. The U.S. forces provide a transitional balance, while training is obtained and professionalization is achieved. This is necessary to organize an armed force [words indistinct], capable of preserving internal security on its own and of defending (?us) against the aggression suggested by the presence of a disproportionately larger Army. We have (?improved the quality) of our Armed Forces considerably. I would even say this: The presence of the U.S. forces in international waters and the joint maneuvers have helped to reduce tension in Central America, and the border incidents between Nicaragua and Honduras have diminished.

$600 MILLION OF FOREIGN DEBT REFINANCED

PA081851 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1643 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Central Bank of Honduras, BCH, today announced that 1.2 billion lempiras ($600 million) of the foreign debt has been renegotiated. BCH President Gonzalo Carias Pineda reported that the signing of the renegotiation documents agreed upon with the foreign banks that loaned money to Honduras is all that remains to be done. He also said that additional financing is being sought in order to reactivate the battered national economy, which has been maintained by the Honduran people's efforts and general sacrifice. Carias announced: "We need an amount similar to the one we have renegotiated in order to carry out several monetary and financial programs."

NICARAGUA

MINISTRY DENIES ATTACK ON COSTA RICAN SHIP

PA082153 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1408 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 8 Dec (DPA) -- In a message sent by Foreign Minister D'Escoto to San Jose today, the Nicaraguan Government denied that Sandinist Air Force (FAS) planes attacked a commercial vessel sailing under the Costa Rican flag on 4 December.

The note says that Nicaraguan planes have not conducted operations in the past 15 days. However, Honduran planes and ships have been attacking Nicaraguan fishing boats in the same area where the "Lionheart" was strafed.

The Costa Rican Government has demanded that Nicaragua pay for the damage it claims was caused by FAS planes while the ship was sailing in international waters.

In a note sent to Acting Foreign Minister Armando Arauz, the Nicaraguan foreign minister says that "it would be appropriate to investigate the incident with the government of that country (Honduras)" He added: "There is a possibility that the Costa Rican commercial vessel was mistaken for a Nicaraguan ship."

According to the note, U.S. ships are also holding military maneuvers in the area of the Atlantic Ocean where the incident took place. Those U.S. ships have "harassed" Nicaraguan ships. In conclusion, he also said such behavior could be designed to obstruct good relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua in order to continue "promoting aggressive attacks on Nicaragua and foreign intervention there."

Havana Reports Denial

FL081430 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has denied that its Air Force attacked a Costa Rican merchant ship and warned of the possibility that this action was meant to hinder the good bilateral relations between the two countries. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, responding to a note from Armando Arauz, Costa Rica's interim foreign minister, pointed out that his country cannot accept the terms of the document or any responsibility whatsoever for events described in the note.

Arauz said that the ship, the "Lionheart," was attacked by two Sandinist Air Force airplanes as it sailed on the Caribbean on 4 December. D'Escoto's response said that appropriate authorities had been consulted and he was able to establish that at no time did Sandinist planes attack the ship in question, and furthermore, no aerial operations have been carried out for 2 weeks.

SANDINIST BATTALION REPORTEDLY MUTINIES, DESERTS

PA081702 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1603 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran press today reported that yesterday a Sandinist Army battalion mutinied against its relief battalion and deserted. In the skirmish, 17 Sandinist soldiers were reportedly killed. Press reports indicated that the rebel battalion had been stationed near the town of Santa Rosa, Nueva Segovia Department, in northern Nicaragua.

The Honduran papers, which did not identify their source, said that the battalion was comprised of between 500 and 700 men, and that in the brief skirmishes with the relief battalion, 17 soldiers were killed and many injured. The reports stated that the rebel battalion -- neither its name nor number were given -- has moved into the area of confluence of the Negro and Coco Rivers. The reports also indicated that "the rebel battalion may wish to desert en masse by joining the ranks of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN)," with which it hopes to establish contact in the next few hours.

The same reports indicated that the members of the rebelling Sandinist battalion apparently do not have enough logistical support, hence they would rather join the FDN than fight at a disadvantage.

According to the press, there is a possibility that the "former Sandinists" may be rejected by the FDN for fear of a massive infiltration, and that they may decide to go to Honduras and turn themselves in to the Honduran Army.

However, spokesmen for the FDN and the Honduran Army told ACAN-EFE this morning that "we do not yet have any official information on the uprising and desertion of a Sandinist battalion that has been announced by the media.

JAIME WHEELOCK DISCUSSES REVOLUTIONARY PROGRESS

PA080325 Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish Nov-Dec 83 pp 31-36

[Report on interview with Nicaraguan Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock, by Marta Harnecker, in Managua, date not given]

[Excerpts] We asked Commander Wheelock the following question:

In assessing the situation, has the revolution lost or gained popular support? Has the revolution lost support due to its inability to keep up with the people's expectations?

The Sandinist leader is of the opinion that, in this sense, the Nicaraguan process has had many advantages, since the people have been living in such misery that "the revolution has brought only benefits for the great majority." This can be seen in the government's capacity to utilize 600,000 people of the country's economically active population of 90,000 in production activities. However, he admits that it is not easy to guide a country in the midst of an economic crisis. The revolutionary government has had to subsidize a number of products in order to defend the workers' salaries. Moreover, it has had to subsidize enterprises in order to prevent their closing.

"Our people know that we maintain the price of a liter of milk at a reasonable level -- 3 cordobas, or 5 cents of a dollar -- when, for example, in Costa Rica the price is 20 times higher. Nearly all popular products are inexpensive here in Nicaragua, and family income is higher today than in the past. A family of five members, who would have had only one member working in the past, now has four and sometimes five members are working. This means that family incomes are higher," Wheelock stressed. He added: This is why, although production is higher than during Somozism, we are facing supply problems. We have more consumers today, either because they now have more income, because they have more job stability, or because by developing markets in the country's interior and opening rural supply centers, we have reached a part of the population that did not consume goods in the past. Thus we have doubled our consumers, while production has grown at a slower pace. We currently produce three times more poultry and eggs, but eggs are still scarce here, since the demand is even higher. Our population has also increased 20 percent since 1979. In addition, international conditions are not the best for economic growth.

According to the Sandinist leader, it cannot be denied that there is a disagreement and discontent among the people over supply problems. However, he said, this should not be interpreted as a lack of support for the revolution, as this basically continues and has even increased following armed attacks by counterrevolutionary bands. Reagan's aggressive policy, rather than weakening the revolution, has helped consolidate it.

The best proof of this is that while Nicaragua keeps its borders open, anyone who wishes to leave can do do, it is -- at the same time -- "a country functioning perfectly well in the midst of an aggression, of a situation of war," and is growing day by day with the incorporation of young people, workers, and professionals, in the revolution's defense tasks.

Wheelock added: "Of course, if we were to propose our interior trade minister as candidate for the Managua mayor's office, he would probably not get even a single vote; but if the people learned that the CIA were preparing an attack against him, as with Minister D'Escoto, they would stand behind him to defend him, as one person."

We told Wheelock that we believe this situation is similar to Cuba's where economic discontent does not equal being ready to fight against the revolution. This is what confuses imperialism, making it incapable of correctly analyzing the correlation of forces and therefore automatically interpreting economic discontent as political discontent.

Wheelock agreed with our conclusion. He added that imperialism was sure that the introduction of task forces would cause insurrectional outbreaks and local uprisings against the government. What happened was exactly the opposite: There has been a large national drive against these bands.

The Sandinists have called on all national sectors -- including the bourgeoisie -- to join the patriotic task of building a new, free, and sovereign society, he said.

"We are giving them the opportunity to be true Nicaraguans, to be national producers instead of 'dollar producers,' in other words, pro-Yankee, people with their hearts in Miami and their whips in Nicaragua." He added: "We have room for the bourgeoisie to participate -- in cordobas."

Jaime Wheelock maintained that in order to modify Nicaraguan society significantly and launch it toward true development, the socialist model cannot be followed to the letter, since this "is a solution for contradictions that are found in developed capitalist countries." He admitted that the leaders of the revolution have socialist principles, but said this does not mean that in the case of Nicaragua -- a poor, underdeveloped country -- the transformation of society can be achieved "by expropriating all production means." He added: "This would not lead to socialism and instead could even lead to the break up and destruction of society." Wheelock said that what the revolution seeks is to create a system of mixed economy in which small, medium, and even large private sectors can live together with the government and cooperative sectors under "the hegemony of new production relations created by the revolution. This hegemony can be achieved with the nationalization of foreign trade, natural resources, strategic industrial sectors, and banks." In this manner, "what we may call capitalist systems -- advanced and in the precapitalistic stage -- would coexist with the government's dominant, hegemonic production sector."

Capitalist Production and Revolutionary Hegemony

However, the first problem to be encountered in the incorporation of the bourgeoisie into this project is the existence of revolutionary power which, according to the Sandinist commander, "changes the logic of the previous social structure." Wheelock added that "the basic element and main characteristic of a capitalist society is the bourgeoisie's power, the bourgeoisie's military power, in other words, power to do as it pleases, going against all the rules of the game if necessary." When this logic is broken, other very important factors are also broken: the psychology of security, for example. Wheelock added: "The bourgeoisie was used to being the belligerent and dominant force in the ideological, cultural, and social fields. But today they are not the dominant class, since the ones who speak and have the most influence are the workers, peasants, student leaders, labor leaders, the ATC [Association of Farm Workers], the CST [Sandinist Workers Federation] and the Sandinist Front; and none of these groups represents the bourgeoisie.

Would the bourgeoisie be willing as a class to accept being assigned only a production role, while occupying a secondary position in the new society promoted by the revolutionary power?

Based on his experience as leader of a strategic sector of the Nicaraguan economy, where a large percentage of private capital is involved, the minister of agricultural development said that this is possible, especially in the case of "a country where capitalism still exists, and regarding a class which was not totally formed, and which, in addition, did not have direct political power."

DANIEL ORTEGA DEPARTS FOR ECUADOR, ARGENTINA

PA081438 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1359 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, today left for Ecuador and Argentina to make official visits to those two countries.

At Managua's Sandino International Airport, Ortega said that today he will meet in Quito with President Oswaldo Hurtado and Vice President Roldos. The Sandinist leader will also meet in Quito with Manuel Valencia, president of the Ecuadoran Congress, and with painter Oswaldo Guayasamin, who heads the groups of solidarity with Nicaragua that exist in Quito.

Ortega is being accompanied by a retinue comprised of Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Domestic Trade Minister Dionisio Marenco, Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy, and other state officials and politicians. The Nicaraguan leader is expected to leave early tomorrow for Buenos Aires, where he will attend the presidential inauguration of Raul Alfonsin.

Ortega said this morning that he has "much trust" in the Central America policy to be implemented by the new Argentine president. According to Ortega, Alfonsin's "position on Central America" is well-known. He added: The statements made by Argentina's foreign minister are particularly well-known. He has made declarations, Ortega noted, against intervention in Central America.

The Nicaraguan leader said that arrangements are bein made to hold talks in the Argentine capital with other chiefs of state who will be attending the presidential inauguration ceremony.

Havana Notes Trip

PA081854 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, today left for Ecuador on an official 24-hour visit. Tomorrow he will travel to Argentina to attend the inauguration of President-elect Raul Alfonsin.

While in Quito, Ortega will meet with Ecuadoran President Oswaldo Hurtado and other political leaders.

Shortly before departing Managua, the Nicaraguan leader said he has much trust in the new Argentine Government, which has spoken against the interventionist policy in Central America and supports the promotion of political solutions to the problems in the isthmus.

In Buenos Aires, Daniel Ortega will meet with President Raul Alfonsin and leaders of other governments attending the installation of the new Argentine Government.

RADIO 15 SEPTEMBER CITED ON SANDINIST ATTACK

PA080143 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 5

[Text] The clandestine Radio 15 September, which transmits from somewhere in Nicaragua, reported in one of its latest newscasts that three companies of the Sandinist Battalion 36-21 -- the Antonio Urbina, Dionisio Chavarria, and Transito Castillo companies -- together with Cuban mercenaries, were annihilated in Dipina, east of Waslala, Matagalpa Department.

Survivors of the attack fled in disarray, abandoning their positions to the freedom commands.

Three detachments of the Jorge Salazar Task Force, led by Commanders Onda, Lopez, El Toro, Fernando, Nelson, Raton, Roberto, Armando Kaliman, Giganton, Danilo, Roger, El Quiche, El Pequeno, Gamaliel, and Johnny, took part in this action against the communists' positions. The enemy left 65 dead in the field and took many wounded with them.

Our forces seized 80 AK-47 rifles, 25,000 rounds of ammunition for the rifles, 1 81-mm mortar, 60 grenades, communications equipment, boots, and other supplies.

Battalion 36-21 was planning to build a military base and a landing platform for helicopters, but our forces destroyed the battalion before it could begin building anything.

Our forces suffered two dead: Careto and Chocola. The clash, which started at 0500 on 2 December, lasted until 1600 the same day. The morale among our troops is very high because they know that the day of victory is approaching.

Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN

MISKITO, OTHER INDIANS BEGIN RETURNING

FL080247 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2123 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Eight flights of AERONICA and the Sandinist Air Force have returned hundreds of Miskito Indians to Puerto Cabezas. The Indians have received amnesty from the Government of Nicaragua. A recent decree granted freedom and the possibility to return to Nicaragua to 306 Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas, who had been sentenced or who were under arrest, and to thousands of others, both inside and outside Nicaragua, who had participated in counterrevolutionary activities between 1 December 1981 and the present date.

Of the persons who have been set free, 82 stayed in Managua to live and work, 57 went on vacation to the Atlantic coast, and 166 [figures as heard] will go to work in several communities.

The return contradicts the defamatory campaign that placed in doubt the amnesty of the 306 Nicaraguan Indians.

HONDURAN ATTACK ON COAST GUARD VESSEL PROTESTED

PA062120 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Honduran vessels and war planes carried out a number of attacks against a Nicaraguan Coast Guard vessel and several Nicaragaun fishing boats in which one fisherman was killed and five others seriously wounded, according to a report issued in Managua by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry.

A protest note sent to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica states that the fishing boat "Gonzalo Brenes" was partially sunk as a result of the gunfire directed at it by three Honduran Air Force planes. The fishing boat was in Nicaraguan territorial waters. Its captain was killed and four crew members were seriously wounded.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry note adds that shortly before the air attack the "Gonzalo Brenes" and another fishing boat had been attacked by two speed boats and two Honduran Coast Guard launches. The protest note also mentions the attack carried out last Sunday by Honduran warships against a Coast Guard cutter and several fishing boats in which a Nicaraguan worker was wounded.

The Nicaraguan Government also noted the possibility that counterrevolutionaries could attack a Costa Rican Rural Police post and blame the Sandinist People's Army in order to provoke a serious conflict between the two nations. In addition, Nicaragua reiterated its willingness to cooperate with Costa Rican authorities in exercising surveillance over their common border.

MAGAZINE SAYS U.S. STUDYING BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

PA080317 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] On the pretext of conducting defense investigations, the Pentagon is sponsoring an extensive study program aimed at giving the United States the ability to engage in biological warfare, the magazine LA NACION has declared. According to LA NACION, the $100-million budget for the investigations could launch the United States into another arms race spiral. The magazine says that one of the large companies that is engaged in these studies is developing vaccines against these bacteriological agents, adding that if they are effective, it could give the White House the green light to proceed with this as a military program.

In 1972, when Richard Nixon was president, the United States signed a treaty that prohibits the development, production, and storage of toxic and bacteriological weapons.

REPORTAGE ON DELEGATION TO ARGENTINE INAUGURATION

Rodriguez Heads Delegation

FL081354 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, left this morning for Argentina heading a Cuban delegation to the presidential inauguration of Raul Alfonsin. Isidoro Malmierca, minister of foreign relations, and Emilio Aragones, Cuban ambassador to Argentina, are among those included in the delegation.

One of the activities that the foreign delegations will be attending, and in which the Cuban delegation will participate, is the wreath-laying ceremony at the statue of General Jose de San Martin. The Cuban delegation will also attend the speech which the outgoing president will make at the Congressional Palace, where the ceremony transferring power will take place.

Commentary on New Government

PA081830 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 6 Dec 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] During the past few weeks, President-elect Raul Alfonsin has rapidly formed a new Argentine Government. Alfonsin will be officially sworn in on 14 December amid a deep internal crisis and at a time when many high-ranking military officers are being put on trial with regard to the Malvinas case, illegal deals, and participation in repression.

The persons who will form the Alfonsin govenment and the judicial and legislative branches have been working hard to prepare for their new functions. They have outlined the essential plans to be implemented after they take office, but the serious problems the country is facing will not be easily solved.

Eduardo Grinspun, the future economy minister, has announced measures that will be immediately implemented and that will be in effect until the middle of next year. These measures include a general salary increase and credits to promote production, which is practically at a standstill.

It has been announced that there will be a new flexible minimum salary law to keep salaries in line with the increasing cost of living, which in the past few months has gone up rapidly. Inflation has also increased rapidly in recent months. The inflation rate has been increasing by 20 percent monthly.

No details have been reported on the measures that the new Argentine Government will implement to turn around the economic policy that prevailed during the 7 years that the country was under military rule, a policy that practically led the country to chaos.

The new Argentine authorities will have to face the problem of hundreds of thousands of unemployed people and a $43-billion foreign debt on which interest must be paid, all this within the framework of a country whose productive apparatus is virtually paralyzed.

Not too much has been said about the new government's policy toward the Armed Forces. The Army's representative in the military junta, General Cristino Nicolaides, has already announced that he is not going to the change of government ceremony, and that on 8 December he will turn over his command responsibilities to General Adolfo Weber, who will be the one to present the Army's subordination to Raul Alfonsin. With this transfer of command, five Argentine Armed Forces generals will automatically go into retirement.

Raul Borras, who has been appointed Defense Minister, has stated that he plans to maintain civilian control over the Armed Forces and prevent any potential coup attempt.

It has been reported by sources close to the future president that an effort is being made to put military men who have had no ties with the so-called antisubversive struggle at the head of each Armed Forces branch. The measures to accomplish this, however, have not been announced.

In the National Congress, the Senate will be headed by Deodolindo Bittle, former vice presidential candidate for the Justicialist Party. The Chamber of Deputies will be headed by Juan Carlos Publiese, a Radical Civic Union [UCR] leader who was Alfonsin's adversary in their party's internal elections.

Labor union elections have been announced. This will permit the renovation of the labor leadership, where the Peronists have a majority. The Peronist movement, which has traditionally been the largest political force in Argentina, has stated it is willing to cooperate constructively with the UCR government on the basis of that party's electoral platform regarding social justice, workers' benefits, and the consolidation of democratic mechanisms.

In any event, we are on the threshold of closing a lengthy and obscure political period that has left deep marks on the national conscience of Argentina.

MALMIERCA SIGNS JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN PRAGUE

FL082243 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] A communique signed in Prague by Foreign Ministers Isidoro Malmierca and Bohuslav Chnoupek at the end of our foreign minister's visit to Czechoslovakia reiterates these countries' repudiation of the aggressive U.S. policy.

The document released today states that the increased tension in Central America and the Caribbean, worsened by the occupation of Grenada, has been caused by Washington's warmongering policy. Czechoslovakia praised Cuba's attitude toward aggression in Grenada and hailed the heroic attitude of the Cuban construction workers on that island.

The document signed by Cuba and Czechoslovakia supports Nicaragua's foreign policy and especially its six-point plan for a negotiated political solution to the Central American conflict.

The foreign ministers of Cuba and Czechoslovakia, Isidoro Malmierca and Bohuslav Chnoupek, called upon world public opinion to support Nicaragua and the Salvadoran patroits. They urged that an effort be made to prevent direct aggression by the United States against Central America, and they reiterated their support of Contadora Group efforts to attain a negotiated solution for that region.

The communique expresses the solidarity of Cuba and Czechoslovakia with the struggle of the Puerto Rican people against Washington's colonialist domination and their support of the Latin American nations that are combatting dictatorial regimes, especially in Chile.

Cuba and Czechoslovakia also stated their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and the Lebanese patriots and compared the USSR's policy of peace with the recent warmongering of the United States.

MONTANE OROPESA RECEIVES DKP CHAIRMAN JENSEN

FL090125 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo, member of the Secretariat, and chief of the Central Committee Foreign Relations General Department, has received Jorgen Jensen, chairman of the Communist Party of Denmark [DKP], at the party Central Committee headquarters in Havana. Jensen was invited to visit our country by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The talks held by the members of the two parties took place in a fraternal atmosphere. Several aspects of the present international situation were discussed, including the struggle for peace and the growing movement in Europe against the installation of U.S. missiles in the West European countries.

FAR MEDICAL CONFERENCE OPENS IN HAVANA

FL081534 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Oct 83

[Excerpt] The fourth national scientific military conference was officially opened today at the FAR's Universal Hall under the auspices of the FAR medical services.

Present at the formal ceremony were representatives of the medical services of Angola, Bulgaria, and Nicaragua, as well as Cuban delegates and guests who will participate in the important scientific event.

Colonel Hector Conde, chief of the FAR's Directorate of Medical Services, gave the main address at the ceremony. He began his address by dedicating the conference to the distinguished Cuban physician Carlos J. Finlay, commemorating the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Conde then explained that within the framework of the conference, the subject matter would be open, there would be plenary sessions and symposiums, and there would be representatives of all medical specialties and of the different medical units and institutions that make up the FAR's health care system.

He pointed out that among the basic objectives of the conference is to contribute to the development and perfection of Cuban military medical science and especially its aspects dealing with medical care in case of an attack on our country by the imperialist enemy.

CEMA PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING ENDS

FL081332 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] With the signing of the final protocol, the 24th meeting of the CEMA Permanent Commission for Cooperation in the Field of Public Health concluded in Havana after 3 days of sessions at the Palace of Conventions.

MONTANE RECEIVES BURUNDI WOMEN'S UNION DELEGATION

FL082018 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1716 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of Cuba's Communist Party, has received the Burundi Women's Union delegation headed by (Eufraye Cadenque), member of the party Political Bureau and general secretary of the organization.

The interview took place in an atmosphere of friendship. They discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly those related to women's organizations in Burundi and Cuba. The Burundi women's delegation is visiting our country at the invitation of the Federation of Cuban Women. (Amalia Dahi), member of the Central Committee of the Women's Union of Burundi, is also a member of the delegation.

CEREMONY HELD TO COMMEMORATE MACEO'S DEATH

FL081250 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] At a formal military ceremony at the Cacahual Mausoleum, the 87th anniversary of the dath in combat of General Antonio Maceo and his assistant, Captain Francisco Gomez Toro, was commemorated.

The ceremony was presided over by Division Generals and Alternate Members of the Politburo Senen Casas Regueiro, first vice minister of the FAR, and Sixto Batista Santana, chief of the FAR's Central Political Directorate.

Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin, member of the Central Committee and chief of the Eastern Army, delivered the address commemorating the 87th anniversary of the death of the Bronze Titan [Maceo].

Further Details

FL080220 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 7 December begins a rebroadcast of the military ceremony held this morning to commemorate the death of General Antonio Maceo Grajales in combat in 1896. The ceremony was held at El Cacahual, Havana Province, site of the monument to and tomb of Antonio Maceo. The announcer provides historical background information.

The opening scene shows a military formation that the announcer describes as three infantry companies of students from the General Antonio Maceo FAR Interservice School. The camera gives a medium shot of the FAR delegation that is to lay a floral wreath before Maceo's tomb; the delegation slowly marches along the esplanade to the monument. The announcer describes the action and its significance. The wreath-laying ceremony is accompanied by drum rolls, a band and finally a lone trumpet. The delegation is led by Colonel Jose Palacio Suarez, director of the General Antonio Maceo FAR Interservice School. The camera gives a long shot of a cannon which begins firing 21 salvos, a close-up shot of the Cuban flag, and close-ups of unidentified personages on the reviewing stand. The FAR wreath-laying delegation then returns to the reviewing stand.

The announcer then states that Division Generals Senen Casas Regueiro and Sixto Batista Santana are presiding over the ceremony with Flavio Bravo Pardo, Central Committee members, other FAR personnel, and party leaders.

Divison General Ramon Espinosa Martin, commander of the Eastern Army, is introduced as the keynote speaker at 2310 GMT and begins a 10-minute speech. The camera maintains a close-up shot as he reads. His speech is historical and refers to the legendary exploits of Maceo and his aide, Francisco Gomez Toro.

Espinosa Martin speaks of Maceo's inspiring example and of the lessons to be learned from his work and writings, stating that Maceo knew that the greatest enemy of Cuban independence was not colonial Spain but U.S. imperialism. Espinosa states that Maceo continued fighting after he died, galloping through history, encouraging with his example the 26 July attack on the Moncada Barracks, sailing on the Granma, maintaining a presence on the fields of combat during the revolution. Espinosa closes his speech stating that, if the imperialist forces make the criminal mistake of attacking Cuba and hurling their forces upon us, they will fall into an irresistible hornets nest, and in the end it will be our people, converted into Maceo, who will hurl the bloody dust of our enemies into the sea.

Espinosa's speech ends at 2310. The camera gives a long shot of the monument. The voice of the troop commander is then heard, and the troops march by the reviewing stand. The announcer explains the mission of the General Antonio Maceo FAR Interservice School as the camera gives long and close-up shots of the marching troops, the Cuban flag, and personages on the reviewing stand. The rebroadcast ends at 2325 GMT with the ceremony still in progress.

TECHNICIANS COMPLETE COURSE OF STUDIES IN KIEV

FL082322 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1915 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] A group of Cuban technicians in Kiev has completed a 3-month course studying basic repairs of tractor and harvester engines. Bernardo Perez, leader of the group of specialists, told the Soviet news agency TASS that the visit of Cuban technicians to the USSR will permit the introduction into our country of advanced technology related to equipment repair.

BAHAMAS

DRUG COMMISSION, INVESTIGATIVE TEAM OPERATIVE

FL081529 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Dec 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] On Monday the appointment of the Royal Commission of Inquiry, headed by Sir James Smith, became official with the signature of Governor-General Sir Gerald Cash. Although the Letters Patent set out the Commission's terms of reference, it was not said where or when the hearings would open. It is understood that an office for the Commissioners has been chosen on Thompson Boulevard.

The commissioners -- Sir James; Rt Rev Drexel Gomez of the Bahamas, Bishop of Barbados; and Canadian Edward Willis, a lawyer and retired Assistant Commissioner with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police -- have been instructed to make a "diligent and full inquiry" into the extent of and methods used to transship dangerous drugs through the Bahamas to the United States.

In the House of Assembly on November 9, Sir Lynden said an independent team of international police investigators will assist the Commission. That team was named late this afternoon. Already Mr Robert J Ellicott, QC, BA, LLB, a former solicitor general and chief justice of Australia, who has been appointed Chief Counsel to the Commission, has invited persons to come forward with whatever information they might have that would assist the Commission in its inquiries. Until offices have been set up for the Commission, Mr Ellicott, who has been in Nassau for the past 2 weeks, has been working out of the Attorney General's Office.

Mr Francis Douglas, BA, LLB, of the Australian Bar has been engaged as Mr Ellicott's junior counsel. Mr Douglas, who is in private practice, was an officer in the Attorney General's Department, Australia, from 1972-1975.

In particular the investigation is to find out what involvement, if any, any Minister of Government, Member of Parliament, civil servant, "or person who had offered for or holds or has held any political public office or office in any political party in acquiesing or participating in any activities promoting or facilitating the transshipment of dangerous drugs." They are also to look into existing law enforcement measures and techniques used in the Bahamas, either along or in conjunction with U.S. law enforcement agencies, particularly "the effectiveness of such co-operative efforts to suppress the transshipment of drugs."

They are also to investigate the nature, methods used, and extent of law enforcement activities undertaken alone in the Bahamas by law enforcement officers or agencies of the United States and their effectiveness to prohibit the transshipment of drugs. They are also to consider the existing laws and practices relating to bail, the appropriateness of penalties being imposed, and the provisions for confiscation of the means of transportation of dangerous drugs as deterrents to their transshipment.

The Commissioners are required within 3 months after their appointment - November 29 - to report on "your several proceedings, and your opinion and recommendations on the premises."

Members of the Commission's independent team of investigators are Det Supt David Stockley of the Metropolitan Police, New Scotland Yard, London, who has been seconded to the Bahamas by the UK; Supt B. K. Bonamy, Director of Security and Intelligence Branch of the Royal Bahamas Police Force; Mr Ormond Briggs, Chief Supt of Police in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department, Royal Bahamas Police Force; and Det Insp Andrew Wells, who has been seconded by the Australian Government. Mr Wells is attached to the Special Investigation Branch of the Australian Federal Police which investigates fraud, narcotics, and organized crime. He has 22 years of service.

CHAIRMAN ADDRESSES 3-DAY FNM CONVENTION

Scores Pindling, PLP

FL081621 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Dec 83 pp 1, 4

[By Anthony Forbes]

[Text] The official opposition Free National Movement [FNM] may have to take to marching in the streets and to a programme of civil disobedience in a more "militant and active" protest against victimization and discrimination of Bahamians by the PLP [People's Liberal Party] Government, National Chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield warned last night. Delivering the opening address at the party's three-day convention to some 1,500 cheering supporters at the Balmoral Beach Hotel last night, Mr Whitfield, MP for Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama, called on trade unionists to support "these programmes to protect the workers of this country."

In his address Mr Whitfield referred to Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling as the "Sweet Music Man," who deceives the people through promises he neither intends or can fulfil. "Faced with the Music Man and his strangle-hold on television and radio, we FNM's need to become more active and more militant in our opposition to the degradation by which our people are oppressed," Mr Whitfield told his audience attending the party's first convention since the 1982 general elections.

He said that after the elections, when asked what time it was, the Prime Minister replied 11:32 pm (Prime Minister's Time) but did not realize that it was less than half an hour before midnight and only 28 short minutes "before the end of his political day."

Mr Whitfield said that the best defence against the Music Man is common sense and noted that many young people of this country have become victims of forces and of a system beyond their understanding and out of their control. In their despair and frustration, the FNM chairman said, some have gone on the blocks and others seek solace in drugs. "Kick the habit of the weed and snow," he said. "Let all of us together, using our godgiven talents and skills build a new society in which each of us is somebody."

Mr Whitfield said the Prime Minister has called for a "register of victimization and discrimination" and has also promised that the jobs at the $100 million Cable Beach Hotel will be for PLP's only "since FNM's did not agree with its construction. "The message implicit in such a policy is that the government is only for the benefit of PLP's," he said. "Such a government is not a national government...it is only a party government and as such does not unite the nation but rather divides it."

Mr Whitfield said that the government has created several nationalities -- PLP Bahamians, FNM Bahamians, undecided Bahamians, and other Bahamians -- by its very policies. U.S. President Abraham Lincoln observed 125 years ago that such a government cannot endure permanently -- half slave and half free. "No well-thinking PLP would associate with such a policy because no government which is solely for the benefit of PLP's can expect to collect taxes from FNM's and all the others who are not PLP," Mr Whitfield told convention delegates.

"The Music Man may function as the legitimate government so long as and only so long as he abides by the Constitution and stops these wicked practices of discrimination, abuse, and victimization of our people in their own country," he said. "This must stop and it must stop now." The FNM Chairman said: "We in this party may yet be called upon to demonstrate to preserve our freedoms. We may have to take to marching in the streets and to a programme of civil disobedience to protest against victimization and discrimination practised against our fellow citizens." Mr Whitfield told his audience that the leadership in the FNM is "prepared now to walk the last mile" for them.

He also called upon all true trade unionists in this nation to support these programmes to protect the workers of this nation. "We cannot sit idly by and allow another Leonard Archer, another Autrey Bullard, another Emerald Bethel, nor another Judy Mae Lewis to fall victim to the political job axe of the Music Man," he said. "Let PLP's know. Let the world know. The Free National Movement will not take anything away from you," Mr Whitfield said. "It is our responsibility to create new and wider opportunities for all the people we would govern."

The party chairman also said that it could have won Holy Cross, Fox Hill, Bimini, Marsh Harbour, Bamboo Town, and South Beach in the 1982 general elections but allowed the "Pindling horde" to take them away from the FNM. He said that the party had failed to recognize that the road to victory is dedicated hard work, constantly analysing and explaining to the Bahamian electorate the issues which affect them as a nation. "We must by our efforts cause the Bahamian electorate to analyze rather than emotionalize," he said. "In each election Pindling has deceived the people of this country by making promises which he had neither the intention nor capability of fulfilling."

Mr Whitfield said that in 1979, the Prime Minister promised to free every poor man from the degradation of poverty but noted that the poor people in the country have not been set free as yet. "Every year the Music Man has promised jobs to the jobless," he said. "The sad fact is that the Music Man has failed to keep bread on the tables of thousands of Bahamian households." He said that the Prime Minister "sings" about the jobs at the Cable Beach Hotel complex being for PLP's but must have meant the lower echelon jobs because "under the song of the Sweet Music Man the top jobs in management didn't to go any Bahamians."

He asked his audience to consider the Bahamian husband married to a foreign-born wife whose citizenship application is still being "considered" after more than nine years, plus the Bahamian wife married to a foreign husband whose application for citizenship is still being "considered" after years of delay. "These families cannot plan with confidence," the FNM chairman said. "The foreign born husband can't get a mortgage to buy a home for his wife and children."

Ponders Cuban Connection

FL081835 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Dec 83 pp 1, 4

[By Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpts] Official opposition Chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield last night questioned whether there is a Communist-backed conspiracy in the Caribbean region of which the Bahamas might be an "integral" part. He said Bahamians may not be aware of the "extensive" trade the Bahamas is doing with Communist Cuba.

Mr Whitfield said that whether the government's power has been used to assist drug trafficking in the Bahamas is the "narrow question" affecting government institutions, but which has been "side-stepped" as the focus of inquiry by the Royal Commission. Mr Whitfield added: "Whether the power of the Bahamian Government has been used by the holder of office for personal gain to assist in the trafficking of drugs through the Bahamas is the narrow question which affects our institutions of government but which has been side-stepped as the focus for investigation by the Royal Commission."

Mr Whitfield then referred to the May 10, 1980 incident when Soviet-built jet fighters flown by Cuban pilots sank "HMBS Flamingo" with the loss of four Bahamian marines in the first encounter with Communist military power. He said the rest of the crew would have been strafed and killed had not U.S. Phantom jets come to their rescue.

"The Bahamian Government has been more vocal and more militant in its condemnation of the United States for its liberation of Grenada from Cuban Communist occupation than it has been in its handling of the killing of four of its own citizens in the Bahamas by Cuban military forces, the terrorism of Ragged Island, and the invasion of Bahamian territorial sovereignty," Mr Whitfield said. He said: "We wonder now whether there is a Communist-backed conspiracy in this region of which the Bahamas is an integral part. It may be, too, that Bahamians are unaware of the extensive trade the Bahamas is doing with Communist Cuba."

He asked whether Bahamians know that no cement is being manufactured at Bahamas Cement Company in Freeport, that the cement used for building purposes in the Bahamas is imported by Bahamas Cement Company directly from the Cuban Government, and that two Cuban barges arrive here each week loaded with cement made in Cuba.

Mr Whitfield also queried whether Bahamians know that a small Bahamian airline makes regular flights to Havana ferrying passengers there and back. "The purpose for this trade is for Cuba to acquire much-needed U.S. dollars which they cannot get from the United States," he said. "Perhaps there may be some other explanation, yet to be heard, why the Bahamas Government made only faint murmurs when the Flamingo was rocket-bombed and four Bahamians killed.

"The government sees (Cuban President Fidel) Castro as its friend. We in the FNM [Free National Movement] see our natural alliance with the United States where many of our relatives are its citizens, whose products we use daily, whose citizens are our tourists and our investors, whose food we eat, and on whose technology we depend for our defence," he said.

He said that some in the government would soon have Bahamians Christmas shopping in Havana rather than in Miami. "It is Communist doctrine which seeks to pull down and destroy, and then deny opportunity to one group of people ostensibly for the benefit of others," he said. "Free enterprise allows us to make as much as our lives as we will, free from irrational political control."

He said that the Prime Minister is not going to lie down and permit the FNM to form a government by default. "Every trick used in past elections, tricks not yet even seen by any of us will be used in an attempt to defeat us," he said.

He said that the task that lies before the FNM is hard, the constant work of analysing and explaining to the Bahamian electorate the issues which affect them as a nation and as a people. "We must cause the Bahamian electorate to analyse rather than emotionalize," Mr Whitfield said.

GRENADA

SIR PAUL CALLS FOR COUP, 'MASSACRE' INQUIRY

FL090150 Bridgetown CANA in English 0143 GMT 9 Dec 83

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 8 (CANA) -- Grenada's Governor - General Sir Paul Scoon said tonight he favoured an enquiry into the bloody military coup here seven weeks ago when soldiers opened fire on civilians killing several of them. We...need to have a full enquiry into the events of the massacre...on October 19," said Sir Paul in a radio broadcast to bring the nation up to date on the latest developments since the U.S.-Caribbean intervention to remove the Army junta which had seized power.

The governor-general who emerged as the island's sole constitutional authority in the wake of the Army's slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and half of his cabinet, also announced that charges would shortly be laid against some of the 47 people detained in connection with the turmoil. "And the guilty must be treated according to law," Sir Paul declared in his 27-minute statement.

He announced that with eminent Geneva-based Grenadian economist Alister McIntyre unable, due to illness, to take up his appointment as head of the interim government here, Nicholas Brathwaite, who had been acting in the post, had now been confirmed. Brathwaite, a former chief education officer, last served as head of the Commonwealth youth programme in Guyana. His services were provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Sir Paul said enumeration would begin early next year for general elections, expected within six to 12 months. A Grenadian supervisor of elections will be appointed and assistance in the voter registration process is to come from a friendly Caribbean state -- this taken as a reference to Barbados which made the offer some weeks ago.

Local agriculturalist Randolph Mark, a former chairman of the Grenada Banana Cooperative Society, was named as the newest member of the caretaker government. No portfolio was allocated to him.

Sir Paul said Chairman Brathwaite will hold discussions in the coming weeks with a view to making any necessary changes in portfolios which would be announced after Christmas.

President of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) William Demans has agreed to act as economic advisor to the interim government, Sir Paul said, and he would be supported by Senior CDB staffer Mario St Rose.

Dr Allan Kirton, the governor-general said, has been appointed deputy head of the interim administration. Kirton has responsibility for the civil service.

Sir Paul said that for "security reasons" some of the detainees must be held at the Richmond Hill prison, but that he had given instructions that they all "be treated as humanely as possible at all times." He mentioned no names. Former Grenada Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, and ex-Army Commander General Hudson Austin, who headed the short-lived military junta after the coup, are all being held under maximum security at Richmond Hill.

How many people were killed when soldiers stormed Army headquarters October 19 and opened fire on a crowd of Bishop supporters is unclear, with unsubstantiated estimates ranging from 90 to 200. Bishop, three of his cabinet colleagues, and two top labour leaders were executed in the melee.

RADIO GRENADA EXPECTED TO BROADCAST 9 DEC

FLO81845 Bridgetown CANA in English 1720 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 8 (CANA) -- The state-run Radio Grenada is expected to resume full broadcasting operations tomorrow using a 20-kilowatt transmitter on two frequencies, the Advisory Council has said. The Council said a 6 am to 10 pm daily schedule will be introduced shortly, using 990 kiloHertz and 535 kiloHertz frequencies, and the station is to be managed by the BBC-trained Grenadian broadcaster, Norbert Bunny Fletcher.

Broadcasting House, at Morne Rouge, four miles south of here, the home of Radio Free Grenada during the four-year rule of the Maurice Bishop regime, was destroyed during the October 25 U.S.-led invasion. In addition, the 50 kilowatt transmitting station built by Cuba at Beausejour on the west coast, five miles north of here, was also put out of action.

In the interim, the U.S. Navy had operated Spice Isle Radio from Point Salines, near to the partially completed international airport.

216 STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL IN CUBA, GDR, USSR

FLO82201 Bridgetown CANA in English 2100 GMT 8 Dec 83

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 8 (CANA) -- There are 216 Grenada nationals studying in Soviet bloc countries, and the island's new authorities are trying to contact them with a view to their possible early return, an Education Ministry source said today. The Grenadians are studying a wide range of professional skills in Cuba, East Germany, and the Soviet Union on scholarships secured by the former left-wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), overthrown in a bloody military coup October 19.

Most of the students -- 184 in all -- are in Cuba where 113 are pursuing courses at university level and the remaining 71 at middle level institutions. Eighteen are in East Germany and 14 are in the Soviet Union.

Grenada's three-week-old caretaker government, installed following the October 25 U.S.-led military intervention, said this week urgent steps were being taken to reach the students through an unnamed "friendly" country.

Twenty-three students are studying medicine in Cuba -- the largest batch for a single subject. Next in line are the 21 who are doing courses in economic planning, followed by 14 who are studying various branches of engineering. All of them are at Cuban institutions. The other Grenadians in Cuba are pursuing courses in over 40 subject areas including infant education, pharmaceutical science, veterinary medicine, dentistry, journalism, agronomy, cane cultivation, athletics, and dancing.

The 14 in the Soviet Union are studying food technology, pre-school education, architecture, aircraft maintenance and operation, power station engineering, and economic planning, among other subjects.

Those in East Germany are studying the operation of farm machines and heavy equipment, and the repair of radio equipment, diesel vehicles, telecommunications equipment, television, telex, and printing equipment.

The duration of the scholarships spanned from one to four years.

REPORT SHOWS NUTMEG SECTOR SUFFERS TRADE DEFICIT

FL081929 Bridgetown CANA in English 1636 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 8 (CANA) -- Grenada's all important nutmeg sector has reported a 152,000 dollar (1 EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) trading deficit for the year ending last June 30, its second such loss in 36 years.

The Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association cited depressed market conditions as well as increased shipping and labour costs as the main reasons for the deficit, and said it was forced to tap reserves to pay producers a 1.2 million dollar bonus. "These increased expenses, along with substantially lower end-of-year inventory value, resulted in an overall trading deficit of 152,500 dollars," the nutmeg board said in its report.

The Association, set up by statute in 1947 as the sole exporter of nutmegs and mace, among Grenada's chief exports, recorded a 109,500-dollar loss in 1972 in the face of low market price and stiff competition from Indonesian nutmeg exporters.

This year's deficit is the culmination of a downward trend which began in 1979, when the Association's profits dropped from 4 million dollars to 2.8 million dollars as a direct result of the worldwide economic recession. In succeeding years, the board said, profits declined steadily -- 2.1 million dollars (1980), 457,500 dollars (1981) and 45,300 dollars (1982).

The report said that in each of the three years, 1980 to 1982, the board's reserves were tapped and producers paid bonuses of 4 million dollars, 3.1 million dollars, and 1 million dollars, respectively. This meant, however, that the Association's cash flow was seriously affected, and while in 1978 the Association had more than 8 million dollars in fixed deposits and current accounts, by 1982 there were no fixed deposits and the Association was operating on an almost 1-million-dollar overdraft.

The report said there has been an improvement in its cash flow position because of smaller deliveries of nutmegs and mace, which meant that there was a reduction in advances paid to producers. But this, the report said, has led to another adverse circumstance. The Association's manager, Robin Renwick, said: "The producers have been discouraged by the low prices and they have neglected to harvest their crops. We have lost considerable poundage which has just been left to rot under the trees."

In an effort to find new markets, Renwick has visited Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela, but there was no immediate prospect of better times for the Association. "The prospects of increasing sales to Argentina and initiating sales to the other countries are still hampered by the lack of suitable shipping connections and the serious foreign exchange problems of the countries concerned," the board said.

Grenada's revenue from nutmeg sales in 1975 totalled some 10 million dollars.

JAMAICA

SEAGA ON CBI: PRODUCTION, EXPORTS NECESSARY

FL081907 Bridgetown CANA in English 1658 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 8 (CANA) -- Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga has warned beneficiary nations of Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), that they must produce competitively and orient their economies towards exports if they are to take good advantage of the free trade arrangements offered by the programme.

"It is the structural adjustment of the Caribbean economies that must be the next critical move," Seaga remarked Wednesday in the western city of Montego Bay after receiving a letter from President Ronald Reagan confirming Jamaica as a CBI beneficiary. The letter was delivered by Dan Rostenkowski, the head of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, who headed a congressional delegation that had talks with government officials in the tourist city.

The CBI will, for a dozen years starting in 1984, provide noncommunist countries in Central America and the Caribbean with tariff-free entry to the U.S. market for most of their goods on a nonreciprocal basis.

But Seaga stressed that the CBI in itself would not be an "automatic system" providing benefits, but rather, presenting opportunities. "All these opportunities can be missed if Caribbean countries do not put their house in order," the Prime Minister declared. "If Caribbean countries are not able to produce competitively, then the fact that there is now a one-way free trade area...will be of no benefit."

The Seaga government, in its structural adjustment programme, is attempting to develop Jamaica into an export-led economy, similar to the Asian "miracle" countries. To achieve this, the government is deregulating the economy and removing protection from the manufacturing sector which developed largely under the umbrella of import-substitution.

The assumption is that with greater competition in the local market Jamaican producers will be forced to be more efficient and hence cost competitive, while at the same time being able to compete abroad.

The prime minister acknowledged that the programme has attracted mixed reations, but said it was shortsighted to oppose it.

Some manufacturers here complain that they are being forced to compete with imports at a time when a shortage of foreign exchange created difficulties in acquiring raw materials, creating other cost problems, and without necessary plant retooling and rehabilitation. Jamaican factories were recently said by the Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA) to be operating at about 49 per cent of capacity.

The Jamaican leader stressed that his programme was not only bringing advantages to the Jamaican consumer, but allowing local products "to compete in third country markets where they can earn greater foreign exchange and can provide large number of jobs for the benefit of the Jamaican work force." In this regard, he said, the opportunties of the CBI "now leave us in a position where we can either seize them or fail to seize them."

Rostenkowski noted that there had long been talk of the need for broader economic ties between the U.S. and the Caribbean Basin, but like Seaga, stressed that a package like the CBI could not be an end in itself. He added: "Unless investors and producers from both our countries walk through those doors, the CBI will do down in history as just another hollow gesture."

NUMBER OF JAMAICAN TROOPS IN GRENADA TO DOUBLE

FL082231 Bridgetown CANA in English 2030 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 8 (CANA) -- Jamaica will from December 17 double the number of its troops in the Caribbean peacekeeping force in Grenada to 300 as the Americans prepare to pull out, head of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), Major-General Robert Neish, said today.

Neish also confirmed that there are plans for the Jamaican head of the Caribbean forces to also command American military personnel remaining on the island after the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops, expected by Christmas.

"We will be sending down a second batch of company strength," the JDF head told CANA. "That will bring us up to roughly 300 men."

On the plan for the Caribbean commander to also lead American troops, Neish added: "You better check the Americans on the precise terminology. But that is the proposal as we understand it."

The JDF's Major Allan Douglas is now in command of the Caribbean forces, having taken over from Colonel Ken Barnes, who was in charge during the U.S.-led invasion on October 25.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS ON NEW DELHI CONFERENCE, GRENADA

FL082009 Bridgetown CANA in English 1415 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 8 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago has stressed the need for the avoidance of recrimination in dealing with the situation in Grenada, where a provisional government is in charge following an American-led invasion last October. Prime Minister George Chambers told reporters on his return here after a 3-week absence from the country that the essence of last month's Commonwealth heads of government conference which he attended in New Delhi was the reconstruction of Grenada after October's political upheaval.

"The essence of the communique on Grenada was reconstruction and the avoidance, as far as possible, of recrimination," the prime minister stated. He added: "That (recrimination) is not helpful to anybody."

Trinidad and Tobago did not support the military intervention which toppled the short-lived military junta that had seized power in a bloody coup. Guyana, the Bahamas, and Belize were the other states in the 13-member Caribbean Community (Caricom) that opposed the invasion. Barbados, Jamaica, and five nations of the subregional Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) provided troops and policemen for the operation.

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS ON 1982 OIL PRODUCTION

FL072110 Bridgetown CANA in English 2018 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 7 (CANA) -- 1982 Oil production in Trinidad and Tobago was the lowest since 1973, the annual report of the Central Bank said. "Against a background of falling demand for oil and weak prices on the international market, the domestic petroleum industry experienced its worst year in over a decade," the 1982 report said.

Last year, crude petroleum production declined for the fourth consecutive year. The bank said total crude production reached 10.27 million cubic metres (64.6 million barrels) or a daily average of 28,146 cubic metres (174,505 barrels). This represents a decline of seven per cent from total output in 1981, the report stated, adding that it follows declines of 11 per cent, one per cent and seven per cent in 1981, 1980, and 1979 respectively. Output in 1982 was 23 per cent lower than the peak production of 13.52 million cubic metres achieved in 1978.

Oil is the mainstay of this twin-island state's economy. Figures released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Finance last month, for example, showed that oil formed the bulk of this country's exports. For the first seven months of this year, the CSO said, oil exports totalled 2.6 billion dollars (1 TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) or about 81 per cent of the total export figure of 3.2 billion dolars for the period.

The country's marine fields continued to be the main source of crude output, the Central Bank report noted, contributing 76 per cent of total production for 1982.

The report attributed the country's crude production slump to the natural decline of existing wells, closure of 11 marine wells for two weeks because of a major fire, and weak demand conditions in the United States.

The Central Bank said that exports of crude oil declined by 12 per cent from 5.98 million cubic metres in 1981 to 5.27 million cubic metres in 1982. However, exploration and development activities increased for the second consecutive year.

Dealing with refinery throughput, the Central Bank said this slumped in 1982 to 8.76 million cubic metres or 13 per cent lower than the level reached in 1981. According to the report, the 1982 throughput was also "the lowest recorded since refining capacity was expanded in 1957. It observed, however, that the country's refinery capacity had been lowered since several older units have been taken out of operation.

Current total refining capacity here stands at 305,000 barrels per day, with the American oil company TEXACO plant representing an estimated 275,000 barrels, an official said earlier this year. The state-owned TRINTOC (Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited) takes up the rest.

The Trinidad and Tobago Government is in the process of discussions for a rationalisation of the country's refining industry, and Energy Minister Patrick Manning gave indications of the projected final figure recently. Last June, Manning told a Caribbean Community (Caricom) energy ministers meeting here that Trinidad and Tobago would have to accept "the inevitability" of a refinery throughput of 150,000 barrels per day.

The annual report stated the downturn in refinery activity here was "particularly sharp" in the last five months of the year. At that time, the major refinery (TEXACO) cut back operations to less than 30 percent of current capacity.

The Central Bank said that residual fuel oil remained the major product of the refineries, accounting for 50 per cent of total output.

Exports of petroleum products amounted to 7.2 million cubic metres, 14 per cent lower than in 1981. "The steady decline in refining activity is primarily due to the fall in demand for petroleum products, in particular residual fuel oil," the bank said. It attributed this fall in demand to ongoing energy conservation trends and the substitution of other fuels for oil, the current worldwide economic recession, and an exceptionally mild winter in 1982-83.

The report said that petroleum consumption in the United States -- this country's major market -- fell by 5.5 per cent during 1982, with the demand for residual fuel oil alone plummeting by 20.5 per cent.

BOLIVIA

COB CALLS GENERAL STRIKE FOR 13, 14 DEC

PY081450 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0227 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 7 Dec (EFE) -- Today the powerful Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] declared a 48-hour general strike to protest the policies of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, whom they charge with "betraying majority sectors" of the country.

The labor union leaders are demanding that the executive branch approve a supreme decree establishing an automatic salary increase once the cost of living has increased by 40 percent.

Juan Lechin Oquendo, leader of the COB, has disclosed that the general strike will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday next week if President Siles Zuazo does not approve the decree before Monday.

PARAGUAY

JOURNALIST FREED AFTER 76-DAY IMPRISONMENT

PY081322 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Dec 83 p 10

[Text] Alcibiades Gonzalez Delvalle, secretary general of the Paraguayan Journalists Trade Union and columnist for this newspaper, yesterday was released after he had been held under arrest for 76 days at the Police Investigations Department by order of the presidency of the Republic. At 1900 yesterday Gonzales Delvalle was taken from the Investigations Department to Interior Minister Sabino A. Montanaro's office by police officer Alberto Cantero, director of the police Political and Related Affairs Department During a 10-minute talk, Interior Minister Montanaro told Gonzalez Delvalle that he was free, and police officer Cantero then accompanied him home.

SURINAME

NETHERLANDS, FRENCH COUP SUPPORT DENIED

PM081359 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 2 Dec 83 p 3

[ANP report: "Surinamese Accusation Denied"]

[Text] The Hague, 2 Dec -- The Netherlands and French Governments have dismissed Surinamese accusations of support for plans for a coup in Suriname.

Surinamese Army and Police Minister Wilfred Meynard said on television on Wednesday evening [30 November] that the Netherlands Government gave support to the plans to have Surinamers killed by their own people. The Paramaribo government has sent a protest note to The Hague about the matter. France also received a similar note. France is said to have supported a mercenary invasion from French Guyana.